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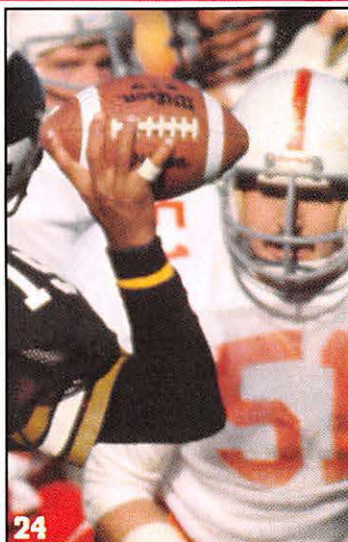
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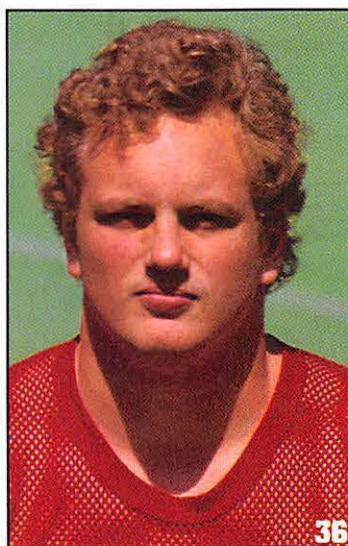
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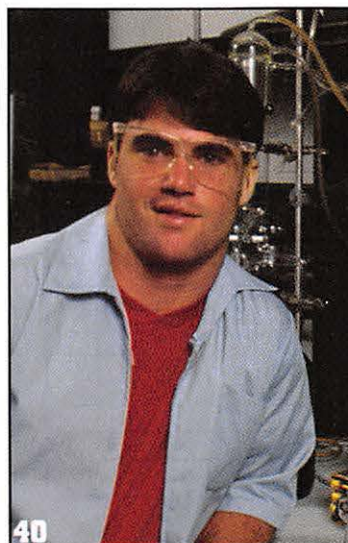
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On The Cover

Nebraska opened its quest of that elusive national championship with a rousing second-half burst that shot down Wyoming, 42-7. And for those who were worried about replacing fullback Mark Schellen, there was the performance of Tom Rathman, who bulled his way for 108 yards. Photographer Randy Hampton caught Rathman (26) in the open on this run.

In The Next Issue

Be sure to look for the first part of a two part feature on Head Coach Tom Osborne, plus Nebraska's brightest Olympic stars.

Huskers Illustrated...

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Letters

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Enclosed is my subscription renewal and check for \$29.95. I enjoy your magazine very much and hope you continue the good work. I am a native Nebraskan and have recently moved to Melrose, N.M. Can you tell me where, in the Clovis, N.M., area I can hear game broadcasts and possibly the "Tom Osborne Show?" Although I'm a long way from Lincoln, I'll always be a loyal Nebraska fan and a subscriber to your fine magazine.

Todd E. Anderson
Melrose, N.M.

●EDITOR'S NOTE — Thanks for the vote of confidence. As you probably know by now, the "Tom Osborne Show" is not carried in the Clovis, N.M., area and Cornhusker games aren't broadcast in that area, either.

The out-of-state stations affiliated with the Nebraska Football Radio Network include: KCMP, Brush, Colo.; KRAE, Cheyenne, Wyo.; KCKY, Coolidge, Ariz.; KDNT, Denton, Texas;

KKBB, Denver; KIEV, Glendale, Calif.; KJOJ, Houston; KCVR, Lodi, Calif.; KNRV, Monterey, Calif.; KTOQ, Rapid City, S.D.; KMNS, Sioux City, Iowa; KSOO, Sioux Falls, S.D.; and KWYR, Winner, S.D. The in-state network includes 29 stations in addition to Omaha's KFAB, the flagship station. ♦

Dear Big Red Mailbag:
Go Big Red!

Sign me up again. Wanted to tell you how pleased my wife and I were with the cover of the *Huskers Illustrated* on Nov. 5, 1983. It has a picture of a trombone player in action. Both of us feel that the "Pride of Nebraska" Cornhusker Marching Band really adds to the enjoyment of the Saturday home games. We know that you appreciate the band, too, as your fine magazine has now featured the band on the cover!

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unbeaten, but we are going to WIN at the bowl game.

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Owen Johnson
Butte, NE

●EDITOR'S NOTE — An outstanding marching band like Nebraska's can certainly contribute to the spectacle of a Saturday afternoon in the fall. The Cornhusker marching band has its own rigorous practice schedule during the season, and its members can be no less dedicated than the athletes. Perhaps the band would be an appropriate item for "Potpourri" in a future issue.

We hope your predictions are correct and agree with you when you say Nebraska has the best head coach and the best football program in the country.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I do wish to tell you how very much I enjoy the magazine. I will be 95 in January, but that does not stop me from being a loyal football fan and a great admirer of our Coach Tom Osborne. My nephew, Dr. Eric Pierson of Lincoln, and Dr. Charles Newman took me to the Florida (State) game in 1980. We sat in the wheelchair section. That was a high point of my life. I never miss a game on television or radio and enjoy it much more having seen one.

Mrs. Margaret Downing
Fullerton, NE

●EDITOR'S NOTE — Fans like you are the life of the Cornhusker football program. Some of Nebraska's most loyal boosters never attend games but rather follow them in the media, radio, television, newspapers and, of course, *Huskers Illustrated*. Hopefully, the Cornhuskers will add a fourth consecutive Big Eight championship trophy to the display case this season. Thanks for taking the time to write.

If you have questions or comments, you may write **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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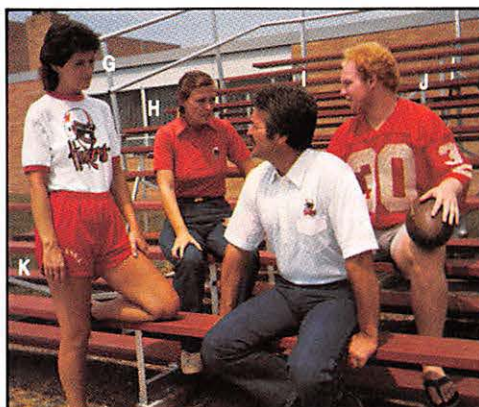
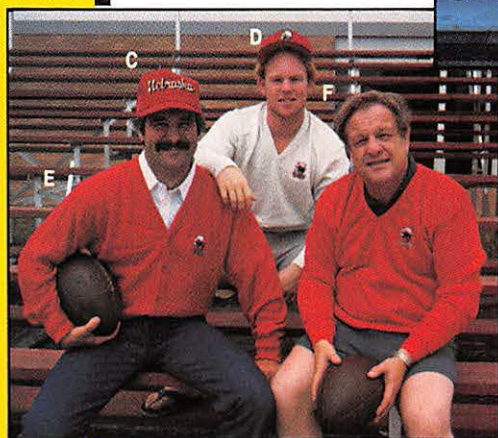
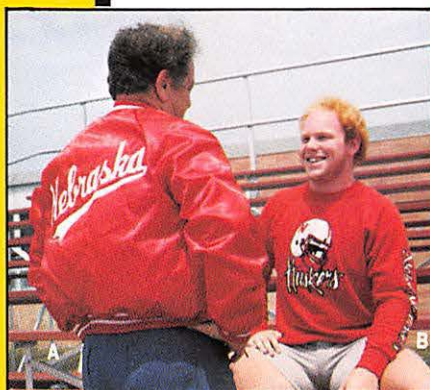
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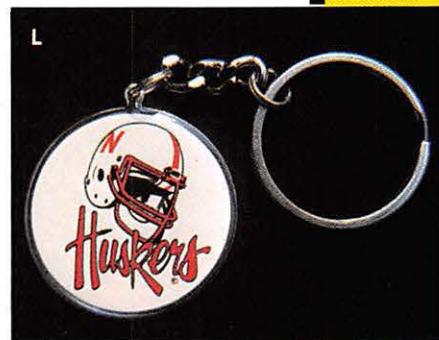
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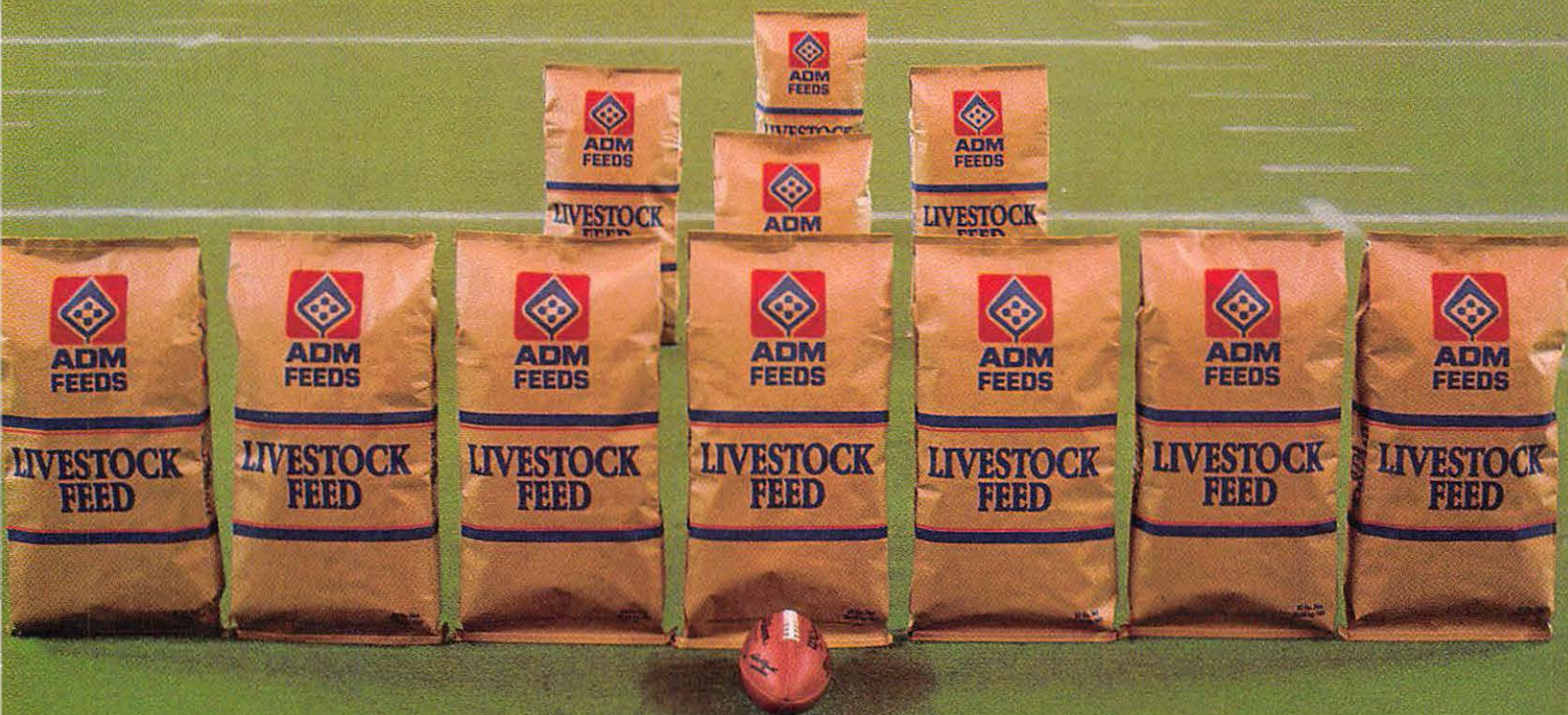
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Potpourri

Inside Husker sports

first, football....

In keeping with a longstanding policy, Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne awarded scholarships to five walkons prior to the beginning of fall camp. Among the new scholarship players this season are quarterback Travis Turner, from Scottsbluff; defensive ends Brad Smith from Franklin and Gregg Reeves from Wahoo; tight end Brian Hiemer from Shelby; and cornerback Dennis Watkins from Chicago. All are juniors.

Watkins, featured in the August issue of *Huskers Illustrated*, transferred to Nebraska from Northeastern Illinois.

When Osborne told him he had

earned a scholarship, "I kept my composure on the outside, but I was so excited on the inside, I wanted to jump off that chair and start hollering," Watkins said.

The Cornhusker junior varsity team is laden with walkons this season, more so than usual. Approximately 70 freshmen reported in early August, only 15 of which had scholarships.

"We may be starting more walkons on the freshman team than we ever have," said Osborne. Nebraska's recruiting class of 15 scholarship athletes may be the smallest in Big Eight Conference history.

Randall Jobman, a defensive end from Oshkosh, was originally a scholarship recruit, but because of a rodeo injury during the summer — he had a thumb severed and then reattached — Jobman won't go on scholarship until second semester.

In addition, "we're kind of the victims of our own success. We have a very low turnover rate at Nebraska, and we have to stay within our 95 scholarship limit," Osborne said.

The Cornhuskers lost a pair of scholarship players to transfer. Defensive tackle Lawrence Hart, a redshirted sophomore from St. Paul, Minn., came up short of hours in the classroom and transferred to Northern Iowa. I-back and fullback Albert Lewis from Las Vegas transferred to Arizona. Lewis had problems with a knee injury which limited his mobility....

Keith Jones, a scholarship freshman from Central High School in Omaha, became the second fastest Cornhusker, varsity or freshman, in Nebraska history during pre-season testing. Jones, an I-back, ran an electronically timed :04.50 in the 40-yard dash, second only to the :04.43 run by Irving Fryar last fall.

"Second on the all-time list is pretty darn impressive for a freshman coming into a program like this, where strength and conditioning are stressed so heavily," said Nebraska strength coach Boyd Epley.

Jones also finished first among the freshman on Epley's athletic index, scoring 1,380 points. "Jones did a tremendous job," Epley said. "According

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to our evaluation method, he's our most talented athlete."

Jones had a 33-inch vertical jump; he ran the agility drill in 5.7 seconds; and he bench pressed 250 pounds. The latter "were two of his weaker scorers," said Epley.

Jones was the South's leading rusher in Nebraska's annual Shrine Bowl All-Star game. The 5-foot-9, 173-pounder gained 70 yards on 14 carries in a losing effort. He's the brother of Nebraska sophomore defensive tackle Lee Jones.

The second fastest freshman during pre-season testing was Brent Schott, a 6-0, 178-pound walkon defensive back from Palmyra. Schott ran the 40-yard dash in :04.57. Wingbacks Dana Brinson and Lorenzo Hicks were the third and fourth fastest freshmen, respectively.

Brinson ran a :04.65, and Hicks ran a :04.69. In order to convert Nebraska's electronic times to the familiar and more common hand time, Epley has established a conversion of .20 seconds, making Jones' converted time :04.30....

A pair of last season's Cornhuskers were inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in mid-September. All-Americans Dean Steinkuhler and Mike Rozier were among 10 inductees, nine of whom played at Nebraska.

The other former Cornhuskers included Vince Ferragamo, Charlie Toogood, George Abel, Frank Meier, E.O. "Jumbo" Stiehm, Clair Sloan, and Ray Richards.

Stiehm was a coach from 1911 to 1915. During that time, Nebraska won five consecutive Missouri Valley Conference championships. His teams compiled a 35-2-3 record. That .913 winning percentage is the best in the school's history.

Stiehm, Sloan and Richards are deceased. Sloan was an All-Big Six halfback in 1928 and 1929. Richards was a tackle and earned all-conference recognition in 1929.

Ferragamo, currently with the National Football League Los Angeles Rams, was a collegiate All-American at quarterback in 1976. Toogood was an All-Big Seven tackle in 1949 and 1950, before a successful professional football career.

Abel played on the Cornhusker Rose Bowl team and earned All-Conference honors as a guard in 1941. He's now a Lincoln businessman. Meier, a center, was All-Big Six in 1933 and 1934.

Steinkuhler and Rozier were automatic qualifiers for the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame after winning the Outland Award and the Heisman Trophy, respectively, last season.

Rozier played his rookie season with the Pittsburgh Maulers of the United States Football League, while Steinkuhler is currently learning to play tackle for the NFL Houston Oilers.

Lincoln businessman Bob Logsdon received the Nebraska Hall of Fame executive committee's Clarence E. Swanson Memorial Award for outstanding service to Cornhusker sports and the university, and the Special Merit Award was given to Don Bryant, Nebraska's assistant athletic director and sports information director.

The induction ceremony for the Hall of Fame was conducted at halftime of the Nebraska-Minnesota game.

better, on the average

This year's biggest Cornhusker football player, Mark Behning, a 6-7, 284-pound senior tackle from Denton, Texas, came close to becoming the strongest Nebraska football player in

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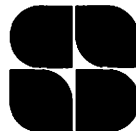
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history during physical testing prior to the beginning of the season.

According to NU strength and conditioning Coach Boyd Epley, Behning "just missed" in his attempt to bench press 480 pounds. Mark Schellen, who completed his rookie season with the United States Football League New Orleans Breakers last July, established the Nebraska football team bench press record at 475 pounds.

Behning was credited with a 455-pound bench press during August testing. The NU varsity average for the bench press was 308 pounds, up from a 306-pound average last season.

Among the others on this year's strongest Cornhuskers list were Dan Casterline, a fullback, Ken Graeber, a middle guard, and Kevin Lightner, an offensive right guard.

Casterline was credited with a 425-pound bench press; Graeber bench pressed 415 pounds; and Lightner set a position record by bench pressing 410 pounds. Lawrence Cooley, now an assistant coach at Minnesota, set the previous team record for a right guard, 405 pounds, in 1976.

Lightner, a redshirted freshman out of Adams Central High School in Hastings, also set a team record in the hip sled. His 965-pound lift broke teammate Anthony Thomas' mark by five pounds.

The only other position records were set by sophomore defensive right tackle Lee Jones, who had a 32½-inch vertical jump, and by freshman punter John Kroeker, who ran :04.84 in the 40.

Jon Kelley, a redshirted freshman out of Lincoln Southeast High School, set a school record in the agility run, completing the test in :05.01. Sophomore Tom Mattingly from Grand Island held the previous record, :05.02. Other top agility runs in this fall's tests were credited to defensive end Scott Strasburger (:05.14) and linebacker Chad Daffer (:05.17).

The team average in the agility run was :05.66, significantly better than last year's average of :06.08.

Kelley was second in the 300-yard shuttle run with a :53.86. I-back Doug DuBose was the leader, with a :53.84 effort. Split end Scott Kimball was third at :54.25. The team average was :58.17, slightly better than last year's :58.47.

According to Epley, that shows this Nebraska team began the season in better physical condition than last year's powerhouse.

DuBose, a redshirted sophomore from Uncasville, Conn., produced the

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best vertical jump on the team, 37 inches. Sophomore Steve Forch, a linebacker, was second at 36 inches. Daffer, cornerback Ricky Greene, defensive end Tony Holloway and linebacker Marc Munford all had 35½-inch vertical jumps.

The team average vertical jump, a measure of explosiveness, was 29.31 inches, down slightly from last year's average of 29.89 inches.

Thomas had the best seated shot put, 34-7, followed by defensive tackle Rod

Reynolds, 31-3, and offensive tackles Tom Morrow and Todd Carpenter, both at 31-2. The seated shot measures upper body explosiveness.

The smallest Cornhusker, as determined during the pre-season testing, was junior cornerback Woody Paige, a 5-8, 154-pounder from San Francisco.

Epley used a film to motivate the athletes to work hard during the off-season and over the summer. "Last winter, on the first day of conditioning, I showed the 1983 highlight film. After

that film, I pointed out that all the stars of that particular film were gone. I asked everyone to look around and pointed out that this team, the 1984 team, would be compared to the 1983 team that set the national record in scoring," he said.

That approach seemed to work on this year's Cornhuskers. "Their physical stats are the best they've ever been. That's the type of athlete we want on our team," said Epley. "When we get in a close game and times get a little rough, they'll pull together."

pillars in the community

The mini-park, established to recognize the "Double-100" coaching accomplishments of Tom Osborne and Bob Devaney, was officially dedicated prior to the start of the football season.

Osborne and Devaney are the only coaches in collegiate history to win 100 or more games each, back-to-back at the same university in such a short period of time. They did it over a 22-year span. The mini-park, just to the southwest of Memorial Stadium, is complete with four granite columns and a commemorative plaque.

"When you stand here, you get the feeling that Bob and I did it all," Osborne said at the dedication ceremony. "Bob did a great deal, coming here when the program was down and turning it around. But 90 to 95 percent of the credit should go to the assistant coaches for their coaching and recruiting efforts and to the players whose dedication and abilities made all of this possible."

"You're going to have to add to this plaque because Tom will win at least another 100," said Devaney.

Nebraska Chancellor Martin Massengale praised Osborne and Devaney, noting: "The merit of their effort means much more than victory on the football field. I say that because of the influence they've had on the lives of many, many young people in this state, and other states as well."

did you know?

The youngest visitor at the Nebraska football team's annual Photo Day session was only six days old? Brandon James Thompson, the son of Cornhusker wingback Jim Thompson, attending the event with his mom, Tami. Brandon James was born on Aug. 9....

You've probably noticed the Cornhuskers' new jerseys this season. The home jerseys have a pair of white stripes

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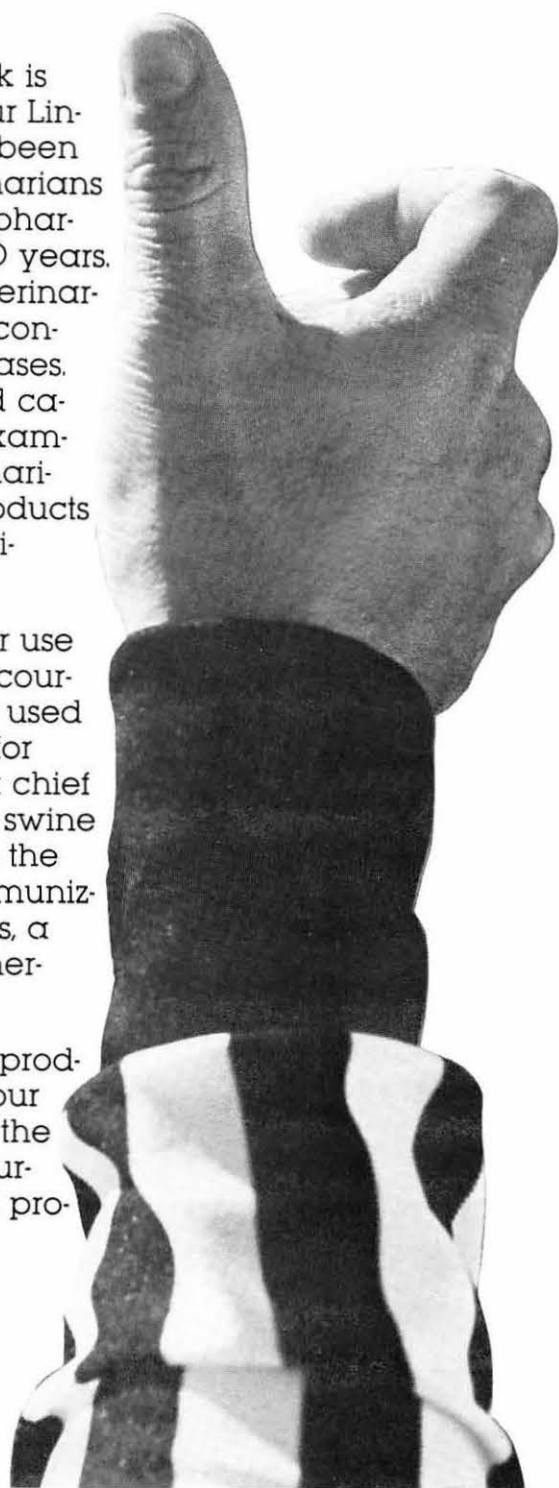
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at the bottom of the sleeves as well as numbers instead on an "N" at the top of the sleeve. According to NU equipment manager Glenn Abbott the coaches came up with the idea for the new design. "I think they look pretty sharp," Abbott said.

times are changing

Prior to the season, the Cornhuskers went through mandatory drug testing for what Coach Tom Osborne called "street drugs." In addition, 25-percent of the players, randomly-selected, were tested for steroids.

The NCAA has yet to make such testing mandatory but is considering such a move in the near future. "We feel it was a good thing to initiate," Osborne said. "Hopefully, it will be preventative."

The players were notified in July that they would be required to undergo the tests. "There's no reason to shy away from it. We don't have illegal recruiting and we don't have illegal drugs," junior fullback Tom Rathman said after the tests. "We have as clean of a program as anybody, and this is one way to show it."

NU I-back Jeff Smith joined Miss Wichita in making celebrity guest appearances to throw out the first pitch at the 50th annual National Baseball Congress Tournament, in Smith's hometown of Wichita, Kan., in early August. "I loved it," said Smith, who had to turn down several requests for such appearances over the summer.

The *Wichita Eagle-Beacon* newspaper used a color photograph of Smith for the cover of its annual football special edition.

Smith spent the summer as a shipping clerk in Goddard, Kan., and maintained his rigorous weight lifting routine at Wichita State University in the evenings after work. All those with whom he worked "came to me asking for tickets," he said. "I told them my family had to come first."

The Cornhusker senior took time out from his summer work and workout schedule to attend a Michael Jackson concert at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City....

NU sophomore Doug DuBose, another I-back, got some advice from Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier regarding the public demands placed on Cornhusker football players.

"Mike told me, 'Wear different disguises when you go out.' I guess I need to put on a hat and dark glasses," DuBose said.

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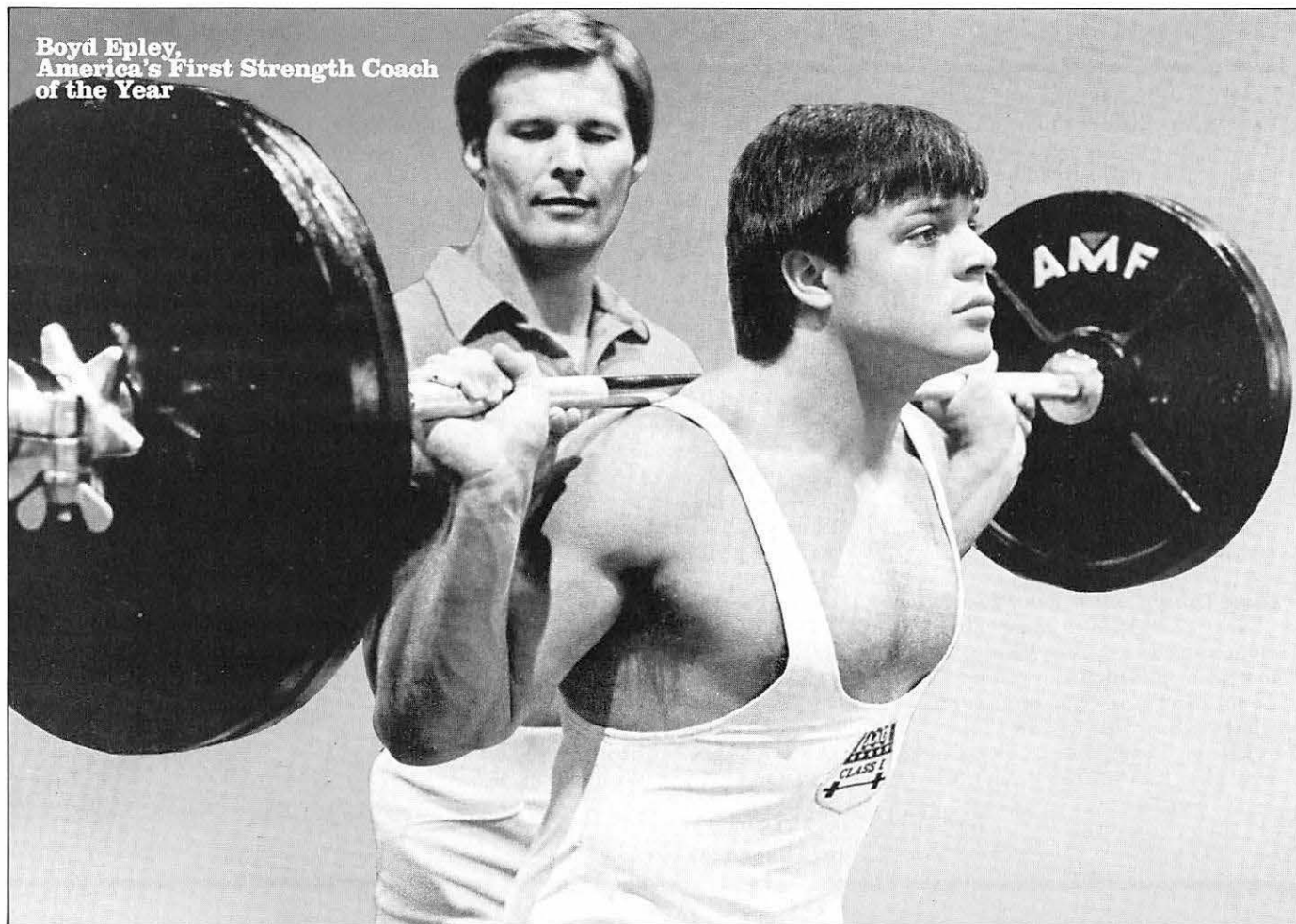
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According to DuBose, Rozier had some other advice for him, too. "He told me to keep my head down and run hard, and if I did, I could be a Heisman Trophy winner like he was."....

Former NU All-American, Lombardi Trophy and Outland Award winner Dean Steinkuhler has the utmost respect for Coach Tom Osborne. "I've learned a lot from the man, and it's all been good," he said. "When you're exposed to someone like Coach Osborne and around him as much as we are, you're going to look at the example he sets.

"He helped me be where I am today. I was nothing to look at out of high school, but Coach Osborne and the other coaches took time to work with me and develop me."

some things other than football

Nebraska basketball center Dave Hoppen made a three-week European tour with an National Invitation Tournament's All-Star team, during which he had what he called some "shattering" experiences. What shattered were glass backboards. "I can't believe

how thin the glass was in those boards, maybe a quarter-of-an-inch," he said.

"In Ireland, we played with wooden backboards, indoors."

The 6-11 junior out of Benson High School in Omaha was a starter and averaged 10 points per game. The 12-player squad played teams from Italy, France, Ireland and Yugoslavia. The Yugoslavian team "was probably one of the roughest, most physical teams I've ever seen," said Hoppen.

During one game with the Yugoslavs, three backboards were shattered. The experience taught Hoppen a lesson. "I wasn't in as good of shape as I would like," he said. "The more you play, the better you feel, and we probably didn't play enough."

Naturally, Hoppen's luggage was also lost on the trip....

Doug Farley, a 29-year-old assistant at Regis College, replaced Tim Carter on the Nebraska basketball coaching staff this school year. Carter, a Cornhusker part-time assistant for two seasons, is now a full-time assistant at Midwest State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Farley is from Washington, D.C., and "that could help us recruit in that area," according to NU head Coach Moe Iba....

Former Nebraska assistant Lonnie Porter is the head men's basketball coach at Regis College, located in Denver. The fact that Farley worked for Porter "helps a great deal," Iba said, because Porter "knows our style of play."....

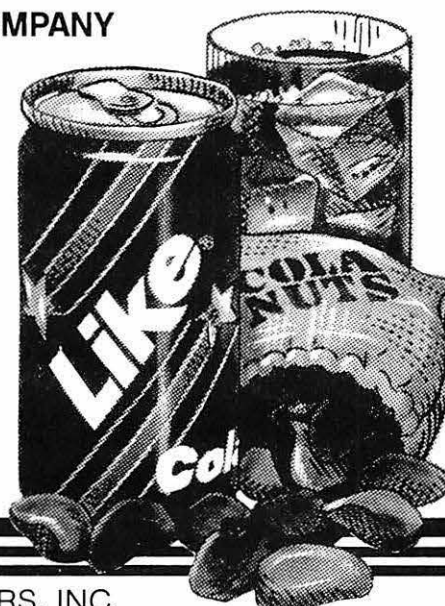
Former Cornhusker basketball players Titus Dock and James Moore are attending junior colleges this fall after transferring from Nebraska....

NU gymnastics Coach Francis Allen announced that Chris Riegel, who had been chosen as a second alternate on the United States gold medal-winning men's gymnastics team, would not return for his junior season. Riegel won two NCAA vaulting championships in his two seasons at Nebraska. He fell victim to various academic and personal problems.

Page 53

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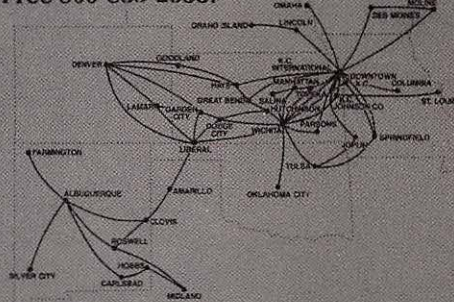
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THIS LITTLE AIRLINE MEANS BUSINESS.



Each August since he became a varsity football player at Nebraska, Mark Mauer has received a gift from an admirer during the Cornhuskers' annual Photo Day festivities.

Even though his days as a Nebraska quarterback are ended, Mauer still receives the gifts on Photo Day. This year, he was given a red satin pillow on which were embroidered, in white, the words "Coach Mauer."

Mauer hopes that title will be his for a long time. He wants to follow in his father's footsteps.

Ken Mauer coached his son at Harding High School in St. Paul, Minn., an experience which Mark Mauer admits has influenced his decision to pursue a coaching career.

That decision wasn't made until the summer following his senior year at Nebraska, however. After checking in his football equipment for the final time, Mauer, picked up a bat and joined the Cornhusker baseball team.

"I thought baseball might be a future for



Mauer Can't Get Enough





Top photo: Mark Mauer and Dan Young — in charge of the freshmen in '84. Young, on leave of absence from Omaha Westside, will be the defensive coordinator while Mauer covers the offense. Lower Photos: Coach Huey barks out commands during freshman practice; a taste of what it will be like on the varsity.

Following Husker football career, Mauer tried stint with semi-pro baseball team, but returned to Nebraska as graduate assistant to coach the freshman offensive backs.

me," said Mauer, who continued to play that summer with the semipro Beatrice Bruins. It was then that he realized coaching rather than playing was where his future lay.

He turned to football coaching "when my playing days were over and I came to realize how much I enjoyed being around the game, the influence Coach (Tom) Osborne had on his players, and the impact my dad had on the guys who played for him."

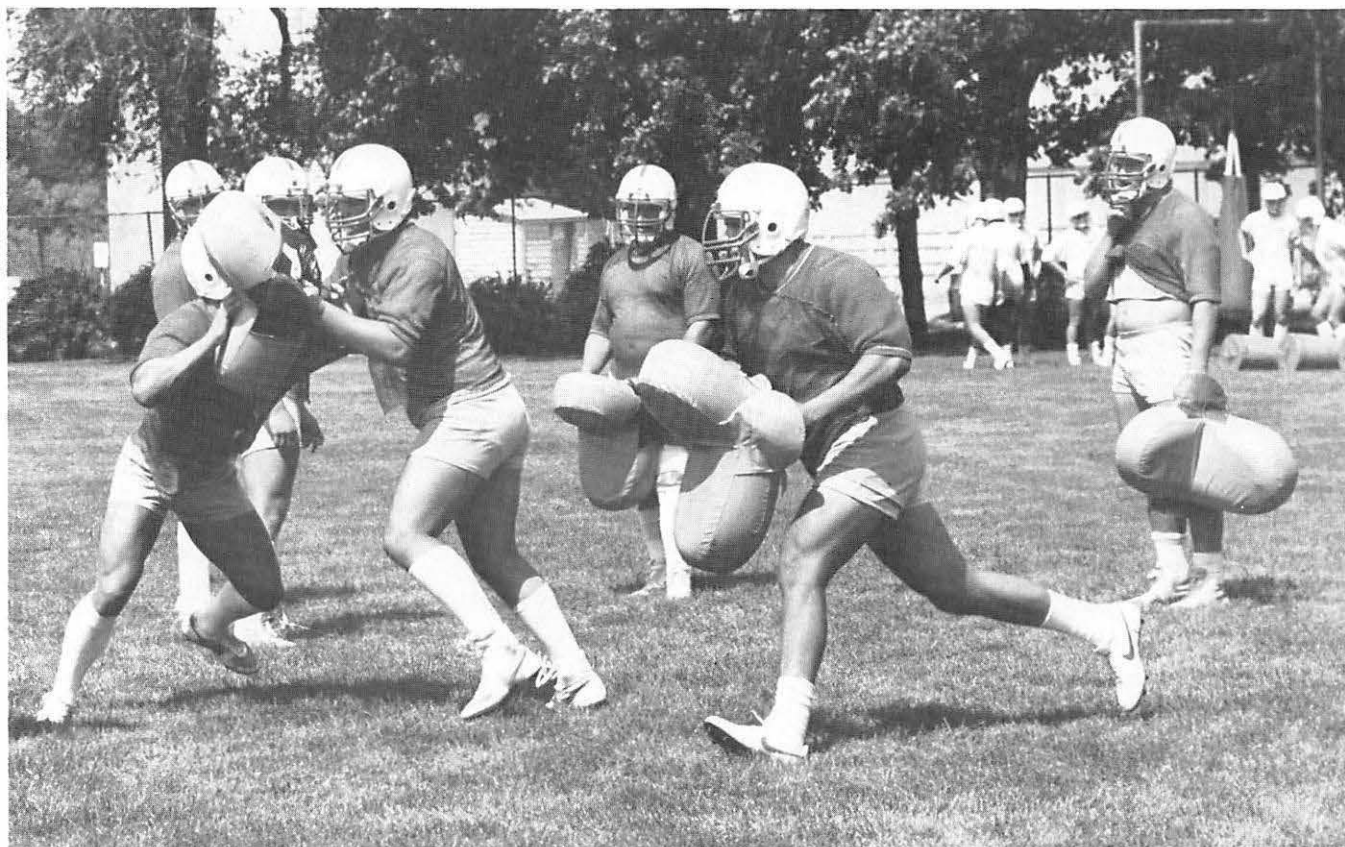
Osborne gave Mauer the opportunity to begin his career as a graduate assistant, allowing him to coach the freshman quarterbacks on Nebraska's junior varsity team.

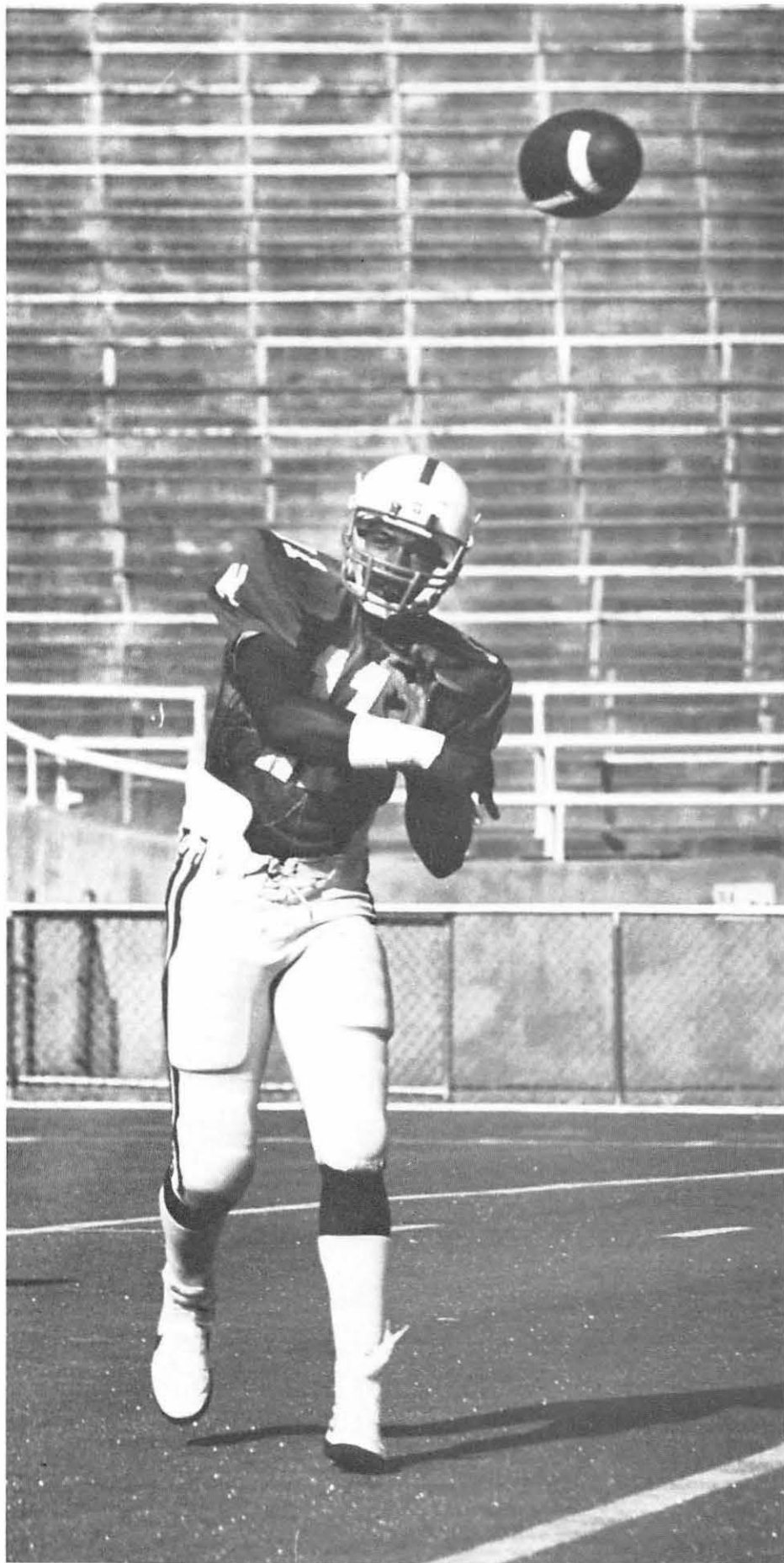
Mauer worked under freshman Coach Frank Solich, now the Cornhusker varsity offensive backs coach. "I learned a lot from Frank," Mauer said, admitting, however, that he "wasn't totally committed to coaching" that first fall. He directed much of his energy at his schoolwork.

He was more student than coach.

Mauer's first season as a coach was made even more difficult by its proximity to his playing career. Less than a year earlier, he had been a Nebraska quarterback, starting in the Orange Bowl against Clemson, the national champion. Now, he was coaching the quarterbacks.

Establishing a player-coach relationship wasn't easy. Mauer had to maintain some distance between himself and athletes who





One of Mauer's charges, Wendell Wooten; a star of the future?

were no more than five years younger than he was.

"I was too sympathetic to the young kids. I may still be that way to some extent, but I'm 26-years-old now and most of the kids I coach don't even recall when I played," he said. "It's become more of a coach-player relationship."

Even so, it hasn't been so long ago that Mauer played that's he's forgotten what it can be like as a college freshman trying to adjust to school and football.

"Everybody here was a good high school player, and there were probably only two or three others on the whole team. Suddenly, they're one of 60 or 70 good players. The whole team is good athletes; 30 or 40 are great athletes. It's an all-star team," Mauer said.

As a result, "you can't be overly demanding with a freshman. It's not that I don't expect them to learn, but these guys are only 17 and 18 years old. There are more factors to consider than football, football, football."

"Most are away from home for the first time, and then to be confronted with football morning, noon and night...it's tough.

"I am still young, and I've tried to use that as a coaching tool. The fact that I am young means that I should be able to relate to them."

Nebraska's freshman football program is one of the best in the country. Most first-year Cornhuskers are allowed to mature on a junior varsity team alongside other freshmen.

They aren't forced to deal with pressures for which they're unsuited, either emotionally or physically. Most players don't realize the benefits of such a freshman program "until two or three years down the road."

Like every other highly competitive athlete, Mauer hesitated to accept the fact that he might not be prepared to step in at the varsity level as a freshman. He was impatient.

Now, he understands how much he benefitted from Nebraska's freshman program. "It's definitely an asset," he said. The alternative is putting most freshmen on the varsity scout squad, where "they get beat up and dinged."

According to Mauer, freshman football "should be a stepping stone between high school and major college competition. What I've tried to do is have my players prepared so they know what to expect when they go into their first spring practice.

"I want them to understand the Nebraska philosophy; to know what it takes to play here."

Mauer's duties have been expanded this fall. He now coaches all of the freshman offensive backs, not just the quarterbacks. He's NU freshman Coach Dan Young's offensive coordinator.

Young coordinates the defense.

"I've always coached the offense, even in high school," said Young, in his second year at Nebraska after taking an official leave of absence from the faculty at Omaha Westside High School.

He led Westside to back-to-back state football championships prior to becoming the Cornhusker freshman coach.

Last fall, Young took responsibility for the offense, with Craig Bohl, now secondary coach at North Dakota State, the NCAA Division II national champion, handling the defense.

"But with all the coaching experience around here on offense, Coach Osborne just thought we needed more on defense," Young said.

"I've never been on that side of the football. It's a challenge. I want to coach offense, but this will help me when I look for a full-time job, it'll give me another 'in.' Coach Osborne thinks it will help my credentials on the college level to spend a year with the defense."

Young is comfortable with Mauer coordinating his offense. "Mark goes the extra step; he does the things it takes. Being a good coach isn't just knowing X's and O's. You've got to know people and be willing to take the extra time with them."

In just one season of working with Mauer, Young has seen a dramatic change. Like Mauer, he's seen the need for maintaining distance from the players. "Mark told me his first year of coaching, it was hard to make the separation," said Young.

"There's a fine line between being a friend to them and being their coach. But you get to know where it stops. The better Mark feels about himself, the easier it'll be to make that distinction."

"In the beginning last fall, Mark hardly said anything to people. Young coaches have trouble talking and explaining things. But now, I think, he's beginning to feel more like a coach than an ex-player."

Initially, Tim Laurito, who coached the linebackers and defensive ends at West Chester, Pa., State College, was picked to coordinate Nebraska's freshman defense.

Laurito had difficulties getting admitted to graduate school, however, and in the mean time, Osborne asked Young to become the freshman defensive coordinator. Laurito coaches the secondary.

Mauer learned a week and a half before the start of fall camp that he'd be the offensive coordinator.

Though he was a quarterback and had been a quarterback coach for two seasons, "I spent the last two springs with the varsity, working with the offensive backs with Coach (Frank) Solich, learning



HELLO, HUSKERS— WASHINGTON SENDS ITS BEST

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Coach Solich's coaching techniques," said Mauer.

"He's a fabulous teacher; a perfectionist like Coach Osborne."

Mauer believes coaching and teaching refer to the same basic process. His experience as a player, particularly a quarterback, makes him a better coach.

"A coach who's played the game knows what to do. Coaching the quarterbacks has been automatic, and as a quarterback, I had to know what the receivers and running backs were supposed to do. But that's only 30 percent of coaching. Conveying what you know to the players, that's coaching."

The changes in responsibilities for Mauer and Young are part of a freshman staff adjustment mandated by a new NCAA rule which prohibits former players who have yet to complete their undergraduate degrees from coaching as graduate assistants in freshman programs.

As a result, the Cornhusker's freshman staff looks dramatically different this season.

Eric Knoll and Roger Hughes, a former assistant at Doane College in Crete, Ne., are coaching the junior varsity receivers; former Cornhusker Kurt Glathar is the offensive line coach, with former NU All-American and National Football League All-Pro Bob Newton as his assistant.

Another former Cornhusker All-American, Mike Fultz, coaches the defensive line; Jason Marton is in charge of the defensive ends; and Scott Downing has been assigned the linebackers. Downing was the head football coach at Sterling, Kan., College last season.

In addition, the NCAA gave Shane Thorell, a former Nebraska walk-on, clearance to coach at the junior varsity level. Thorell is helping Laurito coach the freshman secondary.

Young and his staff work with a junior varsity that began the fall with only 15 scholarship athletes. The rest walked on.

That hasn't concerned Young, however, because "when you look at the walk-ons, 90 percent of them had scholarship offers from some other place. They just wanted to give Big Eight football a try before they did something different," he said.

"We've got a lot of good Nebraska kids as well as players from all across the United States."

The highlight of what Mauer calls "a more difficult schedule than usual" is set for the night of Oct. 5, when the Cornhusker junior varsity is slated to travel to Coffeyville, Kan., to play the defending national junior college champion.

Coffeyville Junior College, which sent Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier to Nebraska, was 11-1 last fall. Heading into this season, Red Raven Coach Dick Foster had compiled an 82-14-2 record at the school.

Prior to this season, the freshman-junior varsity program at Nebraska had built a 91-9 record since 1956.

According to Foster, not many four-year universities are interested in including Coffeyville on the schedules of their freshman-junior varsity teams, and the ones that are, refuse to schedule games on a home-and-home basis.

Junior varsity teams from "Missouri, Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Arkansas would play us but only at their place," Foster said. "Some schools will schedule you and then drop you when it's their turn to travel to your place. With the quality of program we have we can't afford to let that happen."

Nebraska will provide a challenge and it won't back out of a commitment. "Dick knows we'll be the same, year-after-year," Young said.

Coffeyville's game with the Cornhusker jayvees "will be the toughest game we have all year, and it'll really stir up interest outside our immediate area," said Foster.

His teams have made six post-season bowl appearances and two have gone undefeated. In 1981, Coffeyville, with former Purdue running back Mel Gray scoring five touchdowns in the first half, defeated an Arkansas junior varsity team 55-0.

The Cornhusker freshmen have turned to junior colleges like Coffeyville, Ellsworth Junior College in Iowa Falls, Iowa, and Waldorf Junior College in Forest City, Iowa, for competition in recent seasons.

With many four-year schools being forced to use freshmen in varsity programs rather than developing them in a junior varsity program, Nebraska has found more competition for its freshmen by scheduling top junior colleges.

Two years ago, the Cornhusker junior varsity couldn't schedule any conference junior varsity teams.

"We like to give our freshmen a good challenge so they can get a realistic picture of what big-time college football is all about," Young said. "At the same time, we want them to be able to feel they're part of a winning tradition."

"We want them to feel pretty good about themselves."

According to Young, Nebraska's freshman program is now being copied by other schools, including Minnesota and Big Eight rivals Kansas, Kansas State, Colorado and Iowa State.

The Kansas State and Iowa State junior varsity teams are on Nebraska's schedule this fall, and for awhile, it appeared the Kansas and Colorado jayvee teams would be, too.

Coffeyville contacted Nebraska about the possibility of a game against the Cornhusker junior varsity after it lost two opponents from its schedule.

A Jayhawk Conference school dropped football, and a traditional rival, Northeastern Oklahoma, couldn't play until two weeks after the regular season, a violation of Jayhawk Conference rules.

Young has felt the pressure which comes with being associated with a successful program like the one established for Nebraska's freshmen. "It's no real problem, but in the back of your mind, you always wonder, 'What would happen if we go 3-2 this year?' I'd be the worst junior varsity coach in Nebraska history," he said.

Under NCAA regulations, this must be the final season at Nebraska both for Young and for Mauer.

In order to coach one more season with the Cornhuskers, they'd have to petition the NCAA, which will allow graduate assistants to remain a third season if they're close to completing their degree.

Mauer says he might seek another year, but he'll begin looking for a full-time coaching job during the winter and spring. To enhance his position, he's worked with NU recruiting coordinator Steve Pederson with on-campus recruiting and the walk-on program.

Graduate assistants are prohibited by the NCAA from recruiting on the road.

"I can't go on the road, but I'm looking forward to it in my own coaching, dealing with parents and kids. Recruiting is something a lot of people underestimate," said Mauer.

"I've really benefitted from working with Steve. I've learned a lot about organization from him, the public relations, the whole recruitment of a student-athlete."

Young sees coordinating the freshman defense as a means of getting closer to his goal of becoming a full-time coach at the major college level.

At the end of this season, "if I want to to back to Westside, I've got to do it then. I'm sure they'd like to know what I'm going to do, and two years should be enough time for me to find something. Westside has been very good to me and I'd have no misgiving about going back there."

"But I'd like to stay in college. I've enjoyed these two years, and I hope something will happen. It's so hard to get into full-time college coaching, though, especially at Nebraska. You look at the press guide and the coaches' faces don't change. That's why they're so successful."

Young thinks he fits such a mold and so does Mauer. "Mark's really conscientious," said Young.

"A lot of guys are graduate assistants just to get the money so they can complete their degree. Mark's here because he wants to be a coach." ♦



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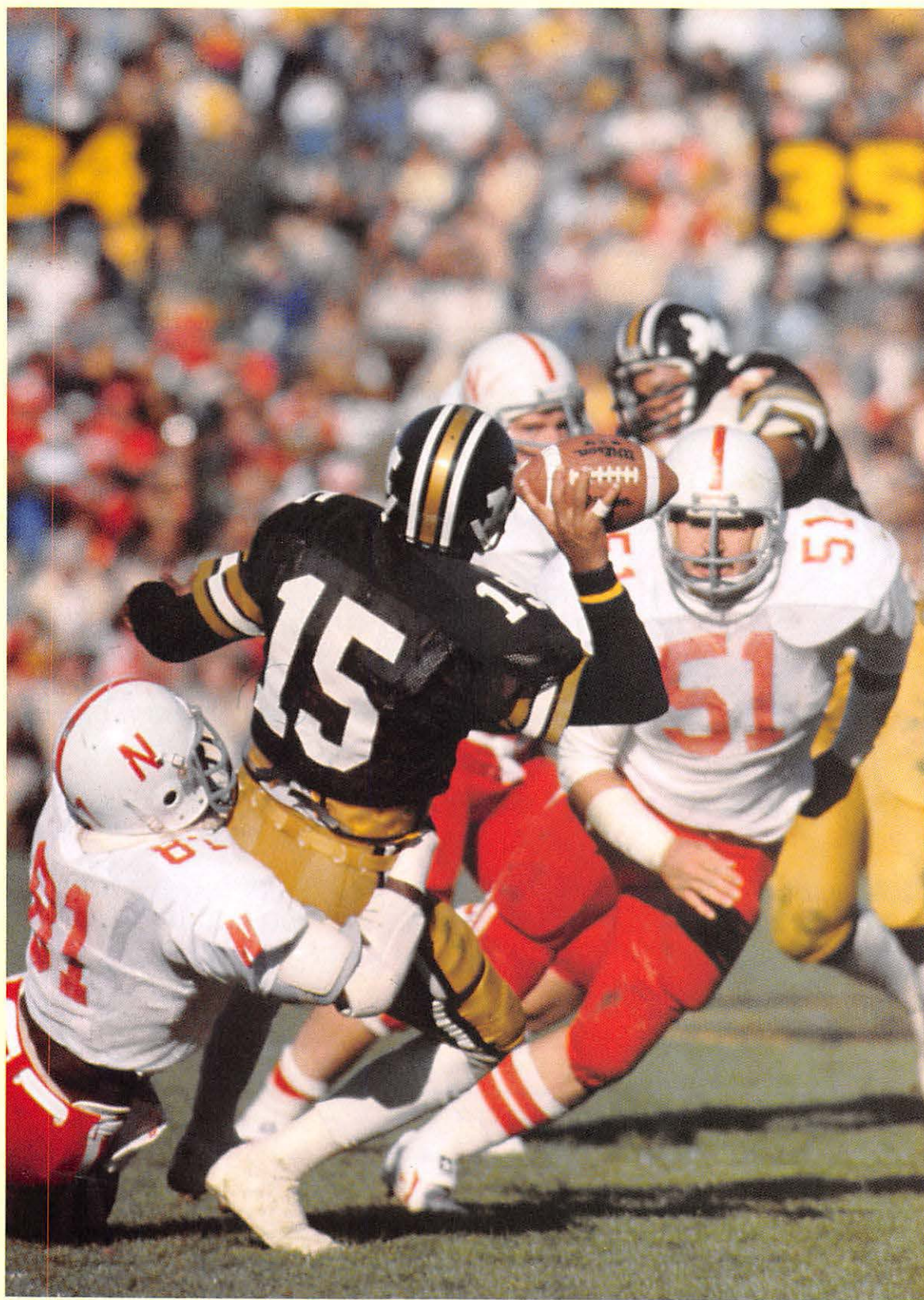
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Nebraska

VS.

Missouri

By Mike Babcock

From the beginning in 1892, this series has brought drama, controversy, humor and always a hard-fought contest, whether on Faurot Field or in Memorial Stadium.

The pain was such that Mike Rozier had difficulty getting down in a three-point stance. Few, if any, among the 76,406 fans packed into Memorial Stadium could know how much it hurt.

By halftime, Rozier had discarded the flak jacket, which failed to provide protection from the sharp pain. The Nebraska I-back had been slated for limited duty, because of the hip pointer, on this particular afternoon in October of 1982.

But the second quarter had barely begun when he was pressed into duty against 3-2-1 Missouri.

Roger Craig, the starter, left the game with a recurrent ankle injury, and Jeff

Smith, a sophomore back-up at the time, had tried with limited success, to handle Missouri's physical play. Nebraska, 5-1 and ranked fifth in the nation, needed Rozier.

Of course, he responded. When the game was over, and the Cornhuskers had escaped with a 23-19 victory over the pesky Tigers, Rozier had rushed for 139 yards on 17 carries.

He gained 66 of those yards during a 79-yard, fourth-quarter drive capped by fullback Mark Schellen's one-yard plunge for the touchdown that put Nebraska ahead for good.

"The show Rozier put on today had to match anything I've ever seen, and I've been around here 31 years," said NU head trainer and physical therapist George Sullivan, afterward.

"I was feeling the pain in that last drive, but we needed the points," Rozier said.

Missouri head Coach Warren Powers, who once was a Nebraska running back himself, had respect for Rozier's gutty effort. The guy can play with pain," said

Powers.

Rozier wasn't the only Cornhusker who responded to a challenge on this particular Saturday. Senior quarterback Bruce Mathison came off the bench to replace Turner Gill, who suffered a mild concussion just before the first half ended, and responded with the composure of a veteran.

Mathison engineered the 11-play, 79-yard drive which gave Nebraska the lead. Then he ran 16 yards for the touchdown that kept the Cornhuskers ahead. For the game, he was 5-of-10 passing, for 35 yards, and he carried eight times for 37 yards.

Not bad for someone who spent most of his varsity career waiting patiently for such a chance.

"I'm just glad everything turned out the way it did. Nobody gave up. I tried not to lose my poise, even though a lot of tempers were flying out there. I just kept telling myself not to get too excited or too emotional. You always think about coming into a situation like this," Mathison said.

The 1979 NU/MU contest. Middle guard, Kerry Weinmaster (51), and defensive end L.C. Cole (81), put the rush on Mizzou quarterback, Phill Bradley (15). Nebraska won, 23-20.

"I don't think I'm a hero or anything. It was just a matter of finally getting everything done."

Nebraska linebacker Brent Evans was a hero, too. The senior from Chesterfield, Mo., was in the game for only two plays through the first three quarters, but when starter Steve Damkroger went to the sideline with a small piece of artificial turf in his eye, Evans was ready to seize the time.

With 3:54 left in the game, Evans intercepted a Brad Perry pass to set up the winning touchdown, and after the Tigers scored a touchdown to pull within four points, he forced an errant pass on the extra-point conversion.

Such heroics are the stuff of which the Nebraska-Missouri football series is made.

In November of 1950, a Missouri team coached by Don Faurot came to Lincoln intent on spoiling Nebraska's Homecoming. Bill Glassford's Huskers were 4-1-1; the Tigers were 2-2-1.

Cornhusker sophomore Bobby Reynolds rushed for 175 yards on 25 carries, scored three touchdowns and added four extra points in the 40-34 Nebraska victory.

One play made this particular Saturday special, however. It came on a fourth down, with the Cornhuskers clinging to a 33-27 lead and less than 10 minutes remaining in the game.

The ball was snapped from the Missouri 33-yard line and lateralled to Reynolds, who tried to go wide but was forced to reverse his field. Again, the Tiger defenders blocked his escape, and he reversed direction again.

In the process, Reynolds had dropped back into his own territory, more than 25 yards from the line of scrimmage.

Having decided he could retreat no farther, Reynolds picked up some blocks and headed back in the direction of the line of scrimmage and the goal line beyond. The record shows that he scored on a 33-yard run, but those who saw it, know how misleading statistics can be.

One Cornhusker blocker knocked down his man and then stayed on top of him while Reynolds zigged, and zagged, his way in Nebraska football lore.

"The play's over," the Missouri defender said, questioning why the blocker refused to let him up.

The blocker was quick with a reply. He wasn't about to get up because Reynolds "might come back this way," he said.

Such individual drama is the stuff of which the Nebraska-Missouri football series is made.

One of Bob Devaney's favorite stories comes from Nebraska's 35-0 victory over Missouri in 1966.

Tiger Coach Dan Devine thought the chain gang in Lincoln was being partial to the Cornhuskers, Devaney relates in his

book, *Devaney*, so Devine sent Harry Smith, one of his assistants, over to the Nebraska sideline to investigate.

Smith, who played professional football, was known as "Black Jack Harry." Devaney writes: "Harry wasn't the type of guy you just told to leave, and when somebody came over to me and pointed Harry out, I said: 'I'm certainly not going to go over and get him out of here!'"

"Every time the chain gang came by, there was Harry following along, watching every move they made, making sure they spotted things right."

Such lightly humorous incidents are the stuff of which the Nebraska-Missouri football series is made.

The series also includes controversy, from the first scheduled game in 1892 to the charges that Nebraska I-back Jarvis Redwine was intentionally roughed up and injured while blocking on an extra-point kick during the Cornhuskers' 23-20 victory at Faurot Field in Columbia, in 1979.

Nebraska and Missouri were scheduled to play for the first time at Omaha, in 1892. The Cornhuskers were credited with a victory when the Tigers chose to forfeit rather than play a team which included a black athlete, Nebraska's George Flippin.

The next two seasons, however, with Flippin still playing, Nebraska and Missouri tangled in Kansas City, Mo., with the Tigers winning 30-18 and 18-14.

Nebraska has won 42 of the 77 games in the series, with three ending in ties. The Cornhuskers hold a 20-14-1 advantage in Lincoln and, thanks to a five-game winning streak at Faurot Field, they have an 18-16-2 edge in Columbia.

Devaney's teams won seven of 11 games against Missouri, winning for the first time at Columbia in 1963, 13-12. Bruce Smith deflected a two-point conversion pass in the end zone to preserve the Cornhusker victory.

Afterward in the lockerroom, NU trainer George Sullivan and end Tony Jeter shaved All-American Bob Brown, whose beard had been allowed to grow for the entire year following Nebraska's 16-7 loss to Missouri in Lincoln in 1962.

The Nebraska-Missouri rivalry has in-

Missouri Coach Warren Powers, an assistant at Nebraska before moving to Washington State and then on to Missouri.



tensified in recent seasons, since Powers, a former Cornhusker, became Missouri's head coach in 1978.

Powers, whose Washington State team stunned Nebraska 19-10 in Lincoln to open the 1977 season, spoiled the Cornhuskers' bid for a national championship in 1978, when his first Missouri squad came to Lincoln for the final game of the regular season and left with a dramatic, 35-31 victory and a Liberty Bowl invitation.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne's record against Missouri is 7-4, but it took him three seasons to beat the Tigers. After losing to Al Onofrio-coached teams in 1973 (13-12) and 1974 (21-10), Osborne's 1975 Cornhuskers won 30-7 in Columbia.

Nebraska has fashioned a five-game winning streak against Missouri going into this year's contest on Oct. 13 in Memorial Stadium. The victories have never come easily for either team. Here's a brief account of each Nebraska-Missouri game during the Osborne era:

OCTOBER 13, 1973

MISSOURI 13, NEBRASKA 12

AT COLUMBIA — David Humm's two-point conversion pass was intercepted by Missouri's Tony Gillick with one minute remaining as the Tigers won a battle of unbeatens, before an audience of 68,170.

Missouri had taken the lead moments earlier after recovering Randy Borg's fumble. Borg attempted to field a punt at his own 12-yard line, and the Tigers recovered at the Nebraska four.

Two plays later, with only 2:03 left in the game, Tom Mulkey crashed into the end zone from a yard out, and Greg Hill's extra-point kick gave Missouri a 13-6 lead. Prior to Borg's fumble, each team had managed two field goals. Nebraska's Rich Sanger kicked his, from 42 yards and 29 yards, in the first quarter. Hill kicked his in the third period.

After Missouri scored to go ahead, Humm passed the Cornhuskers down the field. He and Ritch Bahe teamed up for 31 yards to the Tiger 41. Humm connected with Larry Mushinskie for 20 yards, and after a yard loss, hit Bahe with a pass at the Tiger 10.

Bahe didn't stop until he had reached the end zone.

Nebraska won the battles but lost the war. The Cornhuskers finished with 21 first downs to Missouri's seven, 292 passing yards to Missouri's seven, and 444 total yards to Missouri's 170.

OCTOBER 12, 1974

MISSOURI 21, NEBRASKA 10

AT LINCOLN — Missouri scored 21 points in the final seven minutes of the fourth quarter to send Nebraska down to defeat in its Big Eight Conference opener for the second time in two seasons.

The Cornhuskers scored on Mike Coyle's 32-yard field goal early in the second quarter and extended their advantage to 10-0 early in the fourth period, when Terry Luck teamed up with Don Westbrook on a 10-yard pass play.

Luck replaced starting quarterback David Humm, who left the game with a third-quarter concussion.

Missouri quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz led the Tiger surge, scoring on a two-yard run with 6:56 remaining in the game and throwing a touchdown pass to

Mark Miller with 4:12 left. Tony Galbreath capped the upset victory with a five-yard touchdown run less than two minutes later.

On the two previous weekends, Nebraska had rebounded with a 21-20 loss to Wisconsin by whipping Northwestern, 49-7, and Minnesota, 54-0. Missouri had lost to the same Wisconsin team, 59-20.

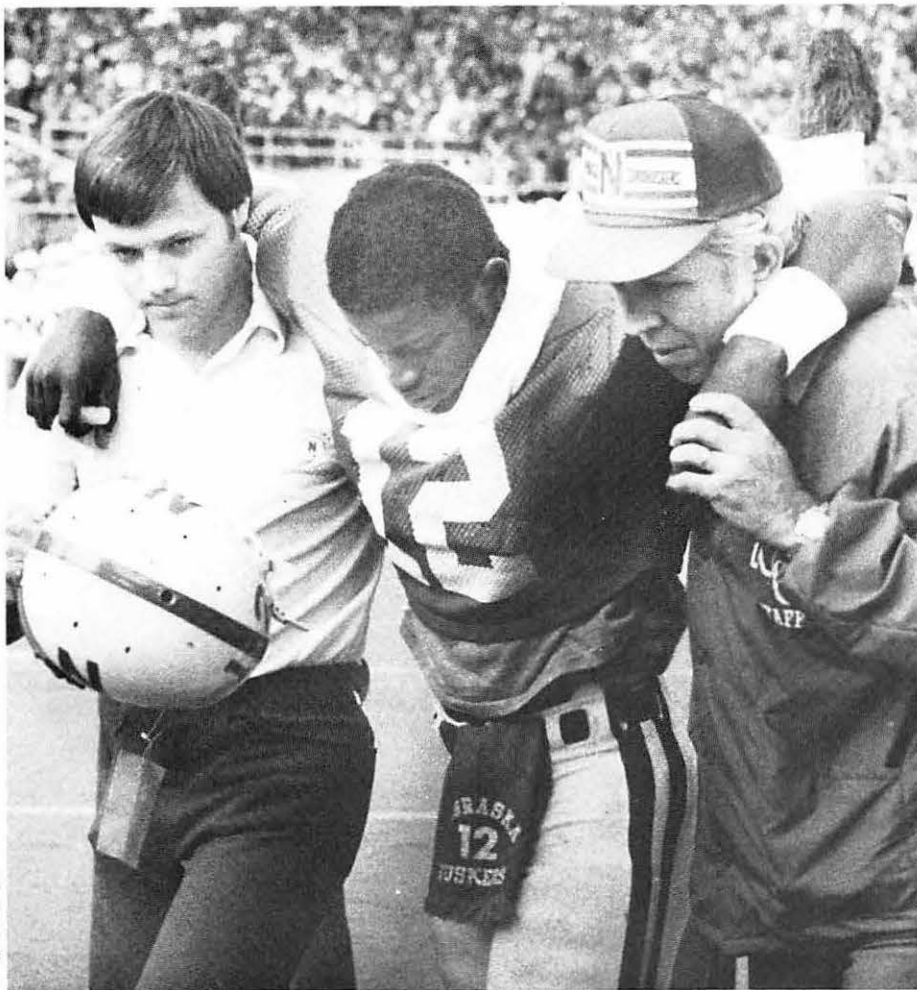
NOVEMBER 1, 1975

NEBRASKA 30, MISSOURI 7

AT COLUMBIA — Nebraska treated a national television audience to a little tomfoolery called the "Bummerosky" and defeated Missouri 30-7.

Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne called the play with 1:46 remaining in the first half and Nebraska leading by three, 10-7.

The Huskers lined up in punt formation from the Missouri 40-yard line, but the ball was snapped to Tony Davis, the blocking back. Davis pushed the ball through John O'Leary's legs, from behind, then faked to Monte Anthony, com-



A hit by Missouri defensive tackle Randy Jostes sent Turner Gill to the sideline in the 1982 game at Lincoln.

ing around on a reverse.

The Nebraska players, including the punter, ran right as if the play were a fake-punt reverse. O'Leary delayed, with the ball hidden, then ran to the left, 40 yards to score.

The Cornhuskers' other three touchdowns were more conventional. All were the result of Vince Ferragamo passes — five yards to Brad Jenkins, 37 yards to Bobby Thomas, and 61 yards to Thomas.

Mike Coyle, who was successful on three of four extra-point kicks, got Nebraska on the scoreboard with 4:57 remaining in the first quarter when he kicked a 30-yard field goal.

Ferragamo completed eight of 17 passes for 136 yards in the game to help extend a Cornhusker season winning streak to eight.

OCTOBER 23, 1976

MISSOURI 34, NEBRASKA 24

AT LINCOLN — Just when things appeared to be going Nebraska's way, Missouri quarterback Pete Woods teamed up with Joe Stewart on the longest touchdown pass in Big Eight Conference history to hand the Huskers their first loss

in seven games.

Nebraska led 24-23, following Al Eveland's second field goal of the game, a 20-yarder, with 14:57 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Missouri lined up at its own two-yard line, on a series that began at its 10; Woods faked a handoff into the line, then tossed the ball to Stewart, who raced the length of the field.

Nebraska dominated the third quarter, amassing 196 yards of offense, but the Cornhuskers could manage only three points.

They went to the lockerroom at halftime trailing 23-18. Kent Smith opened the NU scoring by recovering a blocked punt in the end zone, and the Huskers picked up two touchdowns in the second quarter on one-yard plunges by Monte Anthony and Vince Ferragamo.

Ferragamo completed 13 of 22 passes for 191 yards in the game.

NOVEMBER 5, 1977

NOVEMBER 21, MISSOURI 10

AT COLUMBIA — Richard Berns rushed for 81 yards and scored two touchdowns and Billy Todd kicked three

field goals as Nebraska defeated struggling Missouri.

Coach Al Onofrio's final Tiger team scored 10 points in the second quarter to take a 10-9 lead to the lockerroom at halftime. But Todd kicked field goals of 27 and 42 yards in the third quarter and Berns scored from one yard out with 7:11 left in the game to seal the victory.

Nebraska's Black Shirt defense, led by Jim Pillen, Oudious Lee and Jeff Carpenter, contained Missouri quarterback Pete Woods, who completed 13 of 26 passes but only for 158 yards, under his season's average. Two of his passes were intercepted by the fired up Huskers.

NOVEMBER 18, 1978

MISSOURI 35, NEBRASKA 31

AT LINCOLN — James Wilder, Missouri's big tailback, rushed for 181 yards

With Gill sidelined, senior reserve Bruce Mathison came off the bench to direct Nebraska to a stirring, 23-19 victory at Lincoln in the 1982 game.



and scored four touchdowns to snap a nine-game Nebraska winning streak and send the Cornhuskers into an Orange Bowl rematch with Oklahoma.

A week earlier, Nebraska had upset the top-ranked Sooners, 17-14, in Lincoln, and may have experienced a letdown against Coach Warren Powers' first Missouri team.

Nebraska appeared ready to roll over the Tigers early. Just 18 seconds into the game, Richard Berns broke off tackle on an 82-yard touchdown run.

Berns finished the game with a school record 255 yards in 35 carries and scored a second touchdown, but his heroic effort wasn't enough to stop persistent Missouri.

Wilder scored on runs of nine, one, four and seven yards, the last with only 3:42 remaining in the game.

The Cornhuskers took a 31-28 lead into the fourth quarter, following quarterback Tim Hager's four-yard touchdown run, Billy Todd's extra-point kick with 52 seconds left in the third period and Bern's two-yard touchdown run early in the third period.

NOVEMBER 3, 1979

NEBRASKA 23, MISSOURI 20

AT COLUMBIA — The most dramatic moment of a dramatic Nebraska victory, marred by controversy, came when Cornhusker defensive end Derrie Nelson sacked Missouri quarterback Phil Bradley, as the shadows gathered over Faurot Field in the closing seconds of the game.

Dean Sukup kicked the winning field goal, a 19-yarder, with 3:15 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Jarvis Redwine put the Cornhuskers on the scoreboard early in the first quarter with a three-yard touchdown run, and by halftime Nebraska seemed to be in control, 17-6.

But Redwine was sidelined early in the second quarter when he suffered a knee injury while blocking for an extra-point kick. Some people believed Missouri defender Norm Goodman had intentionally tried to injure Redwine.

In any event, Bradley brought Missouri back with 14 third-quarter points. Bradley and tight end Andy Gibler teamed up on a four-yard touchdown pass, and just eight seconds later, Orlando Pope returned a

Nebraska fumble 17 yards for a touchdown, setting up the final-period drama.

That Nelson was in the game at the end to sack Bradley is remarkable. He had been forced to leave the game after being dinged and was not expected to return.

NOVEMBER 1, 1980

NEBRASKA 38, MISSOURI 16

AT LINCOLN — Missouri found itself with double trouble in the form of I-back Jarvis Redwine and fullback Andra Franklin as Nebraska treated a Memorial Stadium audience of 76,155 to a one-sided victory.

Redwine rushed for 129 yards on 18 carries and scored two touchdowns and Franklin carried 18 times for 122 yards. Quarterback Jeff Quinn completed 11 of 16 passes for 151 yards and one touchdown, a 17-yarder to Jeff Finn.

The Black Shirt defense got in on the scoring act, too, when linebacker Kim

Baker intercepted a Phil Bradley pass and returned it 77 yards for a second-quarter touchdown.

Nebraska got off to a fast start, with Redwine scoring both of his touchdowns in the first quarter. By halftime, the Cornhuskers led 28-13.

OCTOBER 24, 1981

NEBRASKA 6, MISSOURI 0

AT COLUMBIA — For 59 minutes and 37 seconds, Nebraska and Missouri slugged it out toe-to-toe, as a regional television audience of millions and 72,001 fans at Faurot Field looked on.

During that time, neither team scored. But with 23 seconds remaining, fullback Phil Bates broke through the line and raced six yards into the end zone to give Nebraska the victory.

Sophomore Turner Gill directed the 10-play, 64-yard, game-winning drive, vindicating himself for an afternoon on which

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Nebraska defensive tackle and co-captain Mike Keeler came up with a big fumble recovery in the Cornhuskers' 1983 victory.



Meylan Never Even Considered Failure

Former Nebraska middle guard, All-American in 1966-67 and Heisman Trophy candidate now runs multi-state industrial operation in Omaha.



In Wayne Meylan's life, there is only one four letter word he absolutely will not tolerate — the word fail.

It was that way as he grew up in Bay City, Michigan on his father's navy bean farm. It remained that way as the name Meylan became synonymous with terror as a two year All-American middle guard at the University of Nebraska in the mid-1960s, and it's still that way in business at Meylan Enterprises in Omaha.

Those who know the name, and know the fame as the University of Nebraska's first Heisman Trophy candidate since Bobby Reynolds in 1950, know that failure was never a factor even worth considering.

Meylan rarely ever met a challenge he could not meet, and if one came along, he found a way to beat it down the line.

Football, Meylan says, taught him many of those lessons in life.

"I believe football teaches you how to be a real competitor. The biggest thing you get out of it is how to cope with reality, and how to be a success. If you're capable to carry it in your mind, you can carry it into your business. It works out well," Meylan said. "The saying that success breeds success has held out here.

"I don't like failure — not at all. One way or another, we eliminate it."

Meylan has had practice in the business world. Meylan Enterprises, an industrial service contractor specializing in high pressure cleaning systems, deals in a 14-state market in competition with some of the biggest companies in the country.

"The business that we're in, and the competition that we're up against, we have to have our act together and sell ourselves to our customers. We've got to dig down and get the job done. But you've got to prove you can do the job. We're working on very expensive equipment, and if you don't have it together, you won't get but one opportunity."

Meylan has made the best of his opportunities for a lifetime.

Ironically, it was a quirk that brought Meylan to Nebraska, the place he now calls home, in the first place.

As former Nebraska defensive line coach George Kelly recalled, ex-NU coach Mike Corgan was watching films of a player on the opposite team as Meylan, in hopes of seeing if that particular player had the qualities the Nebraska coaches were interested in.

They never got the opportunity to find out. "Every time the film moved, Mike noticed that this big tackle on the Bay City lineup kept messing up the other team's play."

The big tackle was Meylan. The rest is history. He came to Nebraska "because I liked both Coaches Corgan and (Bob) Devaney, and I liked Nebraska's winning tradition."

Had Devaney not come in and started the reversal process on Nebraska's football fortunes, No. 66 probably never would have pulled on a Nebraska uniform. After all, he had letters from 91 schools to choose from, and a failure wouldn't have drawn a second glance.

His play as a Nebraska nose guard became legendary. It was the kind that all nose guards are compared to, and none are equal to.

As one sports columnist stated, "Surely, you remember Meylan, the 6-foot-1, 237-pound strongman who used to throw blockers out of the way like they were stuffed animals."

He had a reputation for blocking punts. As a senior, he turned two into touchdowns, against Kansas State and Wisconsin. He was probably double-teamed more than any player in Nebraska history.

One of Meylan's "real disappointments" was a 10-9 loss to Oklahoma when he was a junior.

Kelly admitted that after first viewing the films of that game, he thought Meylan had played poorly. "After re-running the movies, I discovered that the Sooners were using three men much of the time to work Meylan out. Then I knew somebody else should have been free."

Time has passed, and the game of football has been changed, but Wayne Meylan doesn't feel time or the change has passed him by in terms of how effective he could be as a player in 1984.

Football back when Meylan played was dominated by the defense. The high-scoring games of the 80s were the exception, not the rule.

"Part of the logic at the time was that they were taking the best football players to start with, the most physical players, and putting them on the defense. Now,

Meylan's catches on the day. His partner on certain trips to Michigan and Canada — Coach Osborne.

they're putting a lot of those physical players on offense. It's really opened the game up quite a bit.

"In the 1960s and early '70s, the defenses really dominated the game. With the changes in pass blocking, the offensive linemen are a little more capable of handling the defensive players. That's why when I played it was 65 percent run. Now you look at people and it's 50-50 a lot of the time, or even more. I have to admit it's more exciting. More points are more exciting."

But Meylan still feels he could have been an exciting player in this era.

"If you turn back the clock, there's no doubt in my mind that I could play with equal success. I really don't think they've changed the defensive style that much. Defensive people are still more aggressive. The only real change other than the pass blocking was that they put a stop to head slapping. That's too bad. I think that was one rule they could have left in. With that head gear, a head slap isn't going to hurt you...but it's sure going to get your attention."

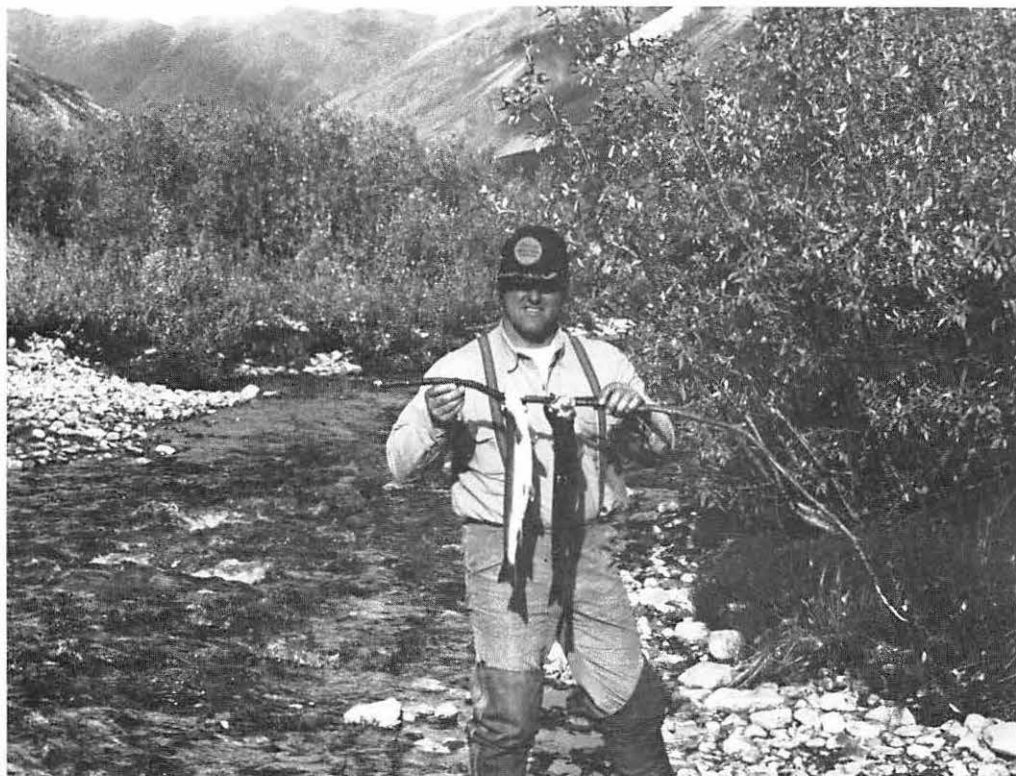
Meylan got a lot of attention as a defensive player. He was everybody's All-American. He finished 12th in the Heisman Trophy balloting as a junior, and improved that finish to ninth as a senior. At the time, a lineman in the running was virtually unheard of.

"That was something, to finish in the top ten for the Heisman," Meylan said. "To finish that high in the Heisman was a very satisfying aspect of playing college football. It was also somewhat surprising. I had a number of tackles behind the line, and blocked punts. There were some great backs — O.J. Simpson, Leroy Keyes, Larry Csonka. To be up with those guys was really great."

Still, one of Meylan's major disappointments in football was to follow — the pros.

He spent time with Cleveland, the New York Giants, Minnesota Vikings and Denver Broncos before he decided to channel his efforts toward the future in his own business.

"I guess if I could do anything over, I wish I would have played full time at linebacker for Nebraska to better prepare myself for the pros," Meylan said. "But the way it worked out, had I stayed in the pros and gotten out on my own option, I wouldn't have my company going like I



have now. I guess I went out of pro football with a bitter attitude, but I'm more happy with what I did now.

"In the long run, I'm sitting here with a future as far as I want to make it go."

Meylan Enterprises employs 70 people at peak times of the year, with most of its equipment mounted on diesel trucks to make it mobile.

Meylan has made himself mobile as well, as a licensed pilot with a company plane to have ready access to contracted jobs and potential bids.

He still gets his hands dirty, too, but mostly taking fish off the line, or cleaning other game. An avid outdoorsman, Meylan and Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne have taken to the lakes of Michigan and Canada together to fish...and talk football.

"We talk about football a little bit," Meylan said. "Tom's a great guy. He can dish it out, but he can take it, too. We don't get into deep, but we get after it pretty good."

"He's going to have a good ball club, a very good ball club this year, despite what he says. They could potentially go all the way."

Flying with Coach Osborne as a passenger in his 836 Turbo is a challenge. "Tom flew with me once, and he wasn't afraid at all. I just tell him if we crash, I'd be in deep trouble around this state, so I'd better not come out of it if he doesn't."

"Seriously, I'm a very conscientious pilot, and I handle Tom with kid gloves."

Playing for Devaney and observing Osborne as a coach and a friend, Meylan is

able to offer some comparisons of the two.

"Bob and Tom approach the game a little differently," he said. "Tom is real methodical, plus he can motivate players when he thinks it's necessary. Bob was a real motivator. He was exceptional in getting players to play above their heads. That's the name of the game."

"Tom is a Tom Landry type. He knows how to win. He knows if you control the football so many minutes and don't make mistakes, it's going to be a winning situation. And he knows how to do it."

Close tabs are kept on the progress of Nebraska football, even though Meylan attends only "two or three" games a year.

"I try to go whenever I can, but it's a busy time for me in the business," Meylan said.

Besides the fall being a busy time in his business, it's also a time where Meylan can fish and hunt with his son, Wayne, Jr., one of two children he and his wife, Audrey, have. They also have a daughter, Britt, who is 13.

"I love the outdoors, and I love to fish and hunt," he said. "My son likes it, too, so it's a good chance for us to get after it together."

Before you picture the now 260-pound Meylan with a small 11-year-old son trudging through the fields in pursuit of pheasants and quail, think again.

There's nothing small about Wayne Meylan Jr. When he turned 11, he weighed 160 pounds. At the age of eight, he could leg press 400 pounds.

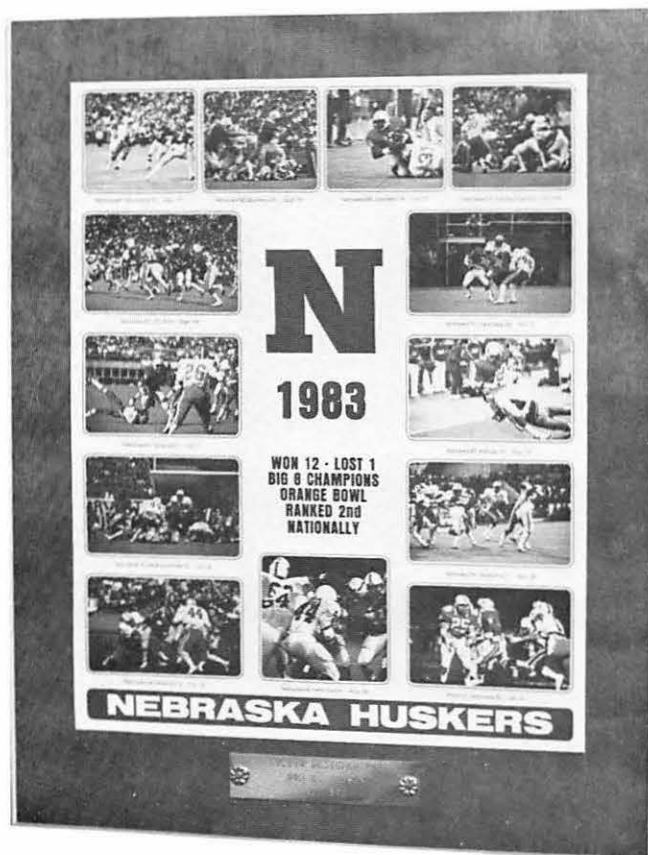
"Tom says he's about ready to offer him a scholarship," Meylan joked.



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In reality, Wayne Sr., doesn't even know if his son will want to pursue football when he's old enough, and he insists he would respect his wishes, whatever they may be.

"Whether he plays or not, there's a lot of potential there," he said. "The only thing I can do is support and encourage him. I can't force him. Everybody is an individual. If it's his wish to not play, I would abide by it. I'd be happy he's still my son."

It's no secret, however, that Meylan would like to see his son attend Nebraska if he did decide to pursue football.

"Naturally, I'd like to see him do that," he said. "Nebraska has been so good to me. The people have been so great. It's been a really good life, living here in the midwest."

He's not, however, sold on youth football for kids.

"I haven't encouraged youth football with Wayne because I don't believe in it," he said. "At this stage of your life, you want to have fun. You're going to have competition of one kind or another for the rest of your life. I never put on a pair of shoulder pads until I was a freshman in high school."

"When you're so young, you still have a lot of developing to do, both physical and mental. Some of those coaches try to coach young kids at a high school level. You can't do that. They're trying to live their own lives through the eyes of a kid, and it's way too early to live through these kids."

Meylan is looking forward to his son getting older so he can join him on some of his more extensive hunting and fishing trips.

He recently returned from fishing and hunting in Alaska where he claimed a full-curl sheep along with his usual catch of fish.

"That was a tough hunt," Meylan said. "You have to be in shape for it."

He maintains his condition with a regiment of weight lifting and squash at least three times a week.

"If I don't have another day to go, I've had a great life," he said. "I've done more now, and accomplished more than a lot of people ever do in a lifetime. It makes me feel very good. You've got to take time to stop and smell the roses, and enjoy some of the things made available to you."

In the case of Wayne Meylan, it wasn't his first dream of pro football that made his lifelong dream possible, it was a case of not accepting failure. ♦

'84 HUSKER HUDDLES

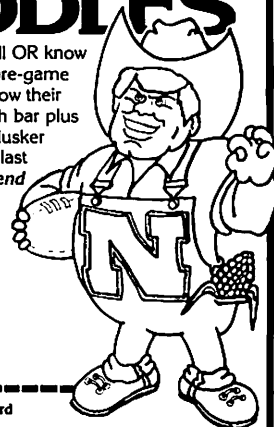
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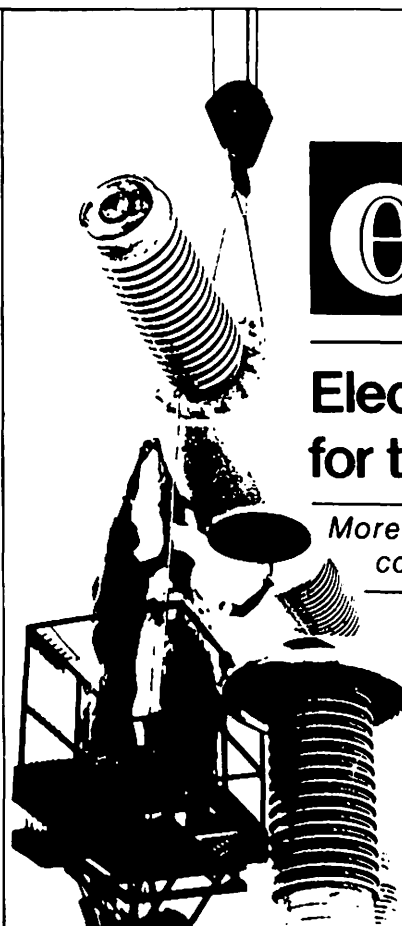
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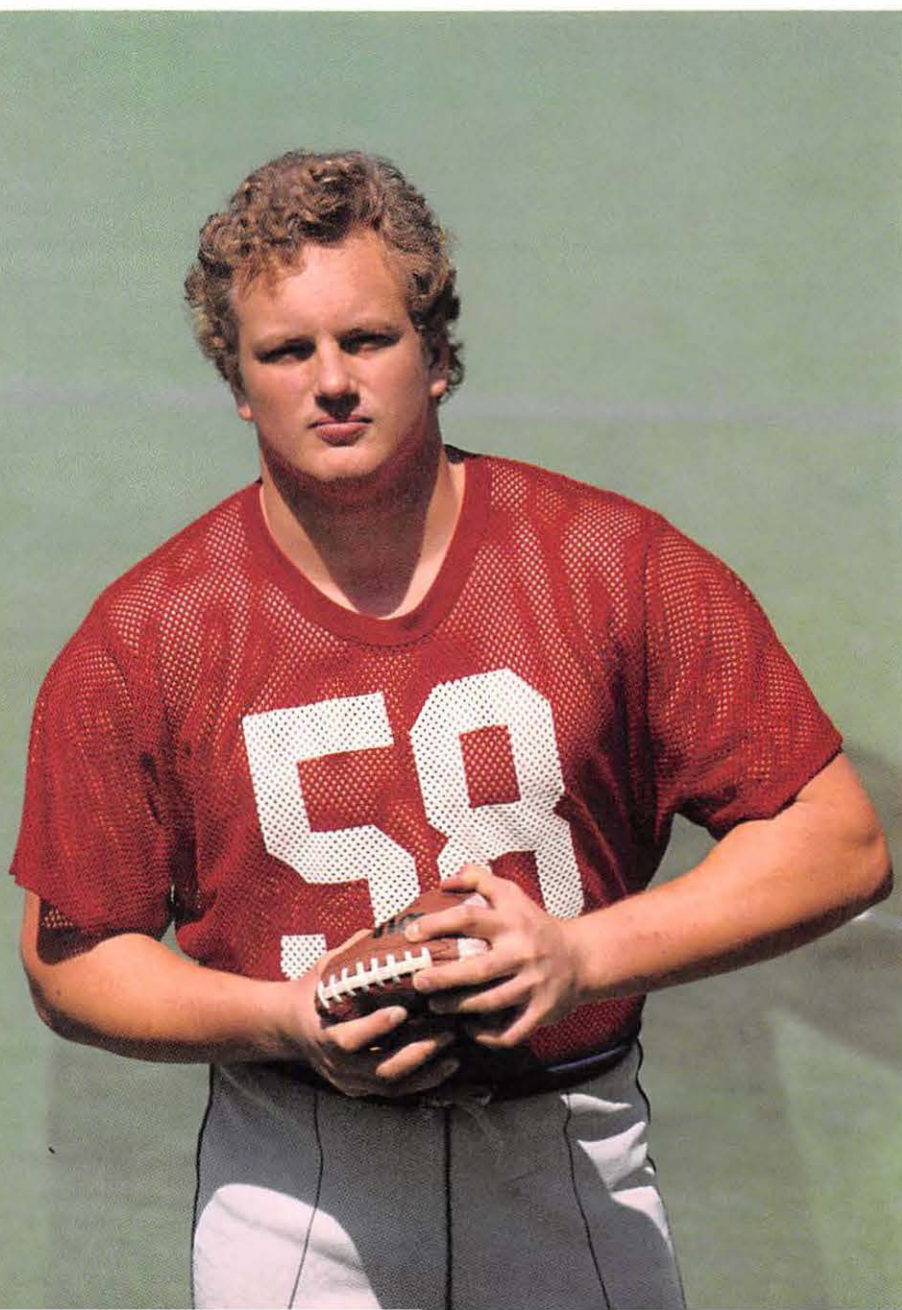
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Offensive Guard Is Genuine Good Guy Now

By Frank York



"I hate to put it this way, but he really was kind of a pig, kind of a slob," — teammate Rathman on Harry...

"But he's changed...He doesn't go around scaring people anymore. He even takes a shower once in awhile," — teammate Behning on Harry...

Coach Tenopir, upon noting Grimminger signed his name "Harry P.," asked, "Harry, what does the P stand for?"

"Pig," — Harry on Harry

....He's the only living actor who could make the change from slob to good guy in two hours.

It took Harry, Nebraska's 6-foot-4, 265-pound offensive left guard, a little more than three years to make the same change.

"Harry? I went to high school with Harry," offered Tom Rathman, the Huskers' fullback starter from Grand Island.

"I hate to put it this way, but he really was kind of a pig, kind of a slob," Rathman said.

"He had this little Datsun and it was always filled with burger wrappers, banana peels and potato chips. It was a mess. I tried to stay as far away from Harry as I could. He was nuts."

Some may say Harry's still a little nuts. "But he's changed," said Mark Behning, the offensive tackle who starts next to him. "He doesn't go around scaring people anymore. He even takes a shower once in awhile."

Actually, it's unfair to throw those cheap shots at Harry, especially since his current public image bears no resemblance to his former college craziness.

Belinda Roberts, a junior psychology major from Salt Lake City and Grimminger's girlfriend, has heard almost every "Harry Story" there is.

But she refers to almost all of them as the BB ERA; "The Before Belinda Era."

"It's funny. I've been dating him since last December and he's always been the perfect gentleman," Roberts said. "I don't know why he did all the things he did. I guess he just figured it was acceptable. He did it. It was funny. The kids liked it and he got away with it."

Even though some of his more memorable moments must be preserved to appreciate "The Life and Times of Harry Grimminger," Roberts has the perfect example of how far he has come in the department of self sacrifice.

"This summer, he came out to Utah to visit my parents and we went to my grandmother's house in Ogden," Roberts related.

"My grandmother made everything Harry hates — a seafood macaroni salad, pickles, nuts in the ice cream and fruit-

filled cookies.

"He almost threw up, but he ate everything," Roberts said. "He swallowed it all just like a pill. The only reason he did was to please my grandmother."

Even Harry's closest friends, the ones who know him as a bright and dedicated person, would have been proud.

In the olden days and in a different setting, Harry might have shoved all the food in his mouth. But he also might have spit it back out just like a scene from "Animal House."

The new Harry Grimminger still hates rock'n roll and he still hates pink shirts. But he doesn't tuck his jeans into his cowboy boots anymore. You can't see his boxer shorts and sometimes, he even wears a belt.

He really has changed, on and off the field.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne remembers Harry first coming to Nebraska "looking like the man out of Frankenstein" because of his stiff, clumsy walk.

Now, Osborne said, Grimminger "moves more like a butterfly" in comparison. The physical metamorphosis has been matched, if not exceeded, by a noticeable change in his behavior.

"I've always known Harry as a nice kid. But he used to think it was neat to go around and scare people," offered middle guard Ken Graeber, one of Grimminger's roommates.

Although he thinks his previous image "got blown way out of proportion," Grimminger knows he deserved at least part of it.

He used to shave his head and walk around with a scowl. He used to growl whenever he blocked, eat the bait with which he fished and, yes, occasionally skip a shower just to be that much more grizzly.

Harry Grimminger did not look like the son of a Grand Island attorney. And frankly, he did not act like one either.

"I guess I always had it in me and once I got into a looser atmosphere, I started screwing around," Grimminger said. "I did some stupid things."

But he never really hurt anyone except himself.

"A lot of people thought I was a slob," Grimminger said. "When I ate the (shrimp) bait, I wasn't bothering anyone. At least I wasn't out driving around, looking for a fight, or sitting in a rock concert looking like a space cadet."

Grimminger is a throwback to an earlier time. He likes to listen to Hank Snow sing about hobos and watch Grandpa Jones on TV.

He doesn't believe in fistfights, is disenchanted by what he calls promiscuity sneaking into the high schools and can't stand drugs any more than he can stand "the whole preppie scene."

Graeber said friends should take part of the blame for the low-life profile Grimminger painted in the Before Belinda Era.

"We egged him into a lot of things and he always got caught holding the bag," Graeber said. "Now that he's a starter, he doesn't want the image anymore."

Still, "The Life and Times of Harry Grimminger" would not be complete without one of its best scenes.

A year ago last winter, Graeber accidentally broke Grimminger's favorite album, "Hell Bent for Leather," by Frankie Lane.

"When I lived with Graeber and (Mark) Daum, our whole house woke up to that album every morning," Grimminger said.

"Harry played that album every night after practice, too," Graeber said. "It almost broke his heart when I broke it."

On the night that "Hell Bent for Leather" died, Grimminger did what he thought was proper. He took the album out in the backyard, dug a hole and buried it.

"He even said a few words," said Daum, Nebraska's senior linebacker. "I thought he was joking, but he was dead serious. He even made me take off my hat."

Graeber admits "it's hard to describe Harry. He's a little different. But he's a good kid with good values."

And a great player.

That comes straight from his teammates. They consider him the meanest man on the whole darn football team.

You don't tug on Superman's cape. You don't spit into the wind. You don't pull the mask off the old Lone Ranger. And you don't mess around with...Harry?



Grimminger and girl friend Belinda Roberts (as in BB Era) pose on photo day.

"I know he doesn't look like a tough guy, but he is," admitted Mike Knox, Nebraska's All-Big Eight linebacker who is sidelined this season with a knee injury.

"It's something that's just unexplainable," Knox said. "Harry gets that look in his eyes and if he gets mad, he'll come right at you with everything he's got."

It's a contradiction. "Scary Harry" doesn't look like the meanest man on the whole darn team. To be perfectly honest, he's got a baby face.

He just doesn't have a baby's disposition.

"He really takes pride at earholing (blindsiding) guys downfield," Daum said. "He's done it to me a couple of times and I'm one of his best friends."

Grimminger's favorite play, though, is the trap where he can come around the center tight and surprise a linebacker.

Knox and Daum like to watch the 1983 Nebraska-Oklahoma film. On one memorable trap play, Grimminger explodes out of the shadow of center Mark Traynowicz on the double team and levels Thomas Benson.

Oklahoma's linebacker weighs 240

pounds, but he went down like he'd just rode a motorcycle into a clothesline.

If Benson met Grimminger at a barbecue in street clothes, he'd probably be embarrassed.

Physically, there is no comparison between the two. Chalk up another one for "Harry Hustle," a much more appropriate nickname than "Scary Harry."

"Harry is the Pete Rose of the Nebraska Cornhuskers," Behning said. "He's the guy who's always hustling and always firing everybody up. There are times when he still goes nuts. He still screams and yells, but it's a controlled rage."

And it's not anywhere close to the sound that came out of Harry his first two years on campus. "Harry used to sound like two dogs barking when he was pass blocking," Behning said. "He'd tear up the ground and growl so loud, it scared the other guys in the offensive line. He growled worse than a shot putter."

According to Daum, "Harry's still the only guy on an offensive line anywhere who starts to growl before the ball's even snapped."

That growl started when he was a junior, playing for Ken Fischer at Grand Island High School.

"Coach Fischer liked us to get off the ball and really get after people," Grimminger recalled. "That summer, we yelled and growled to see who could shovel the most concrete into the form in the least amount of time."

Harry Grimminger, good guy, credits Kenny Fischer for directing him out of his early stages of Harry Grimminger, slob.

"I have lot of respect for Coach (Ken) Fischer," he said. "He instilled a work ethic in me more than anybody. I was a big fat kid as a junior in high school."

"I wasn't spectacular or anything. I was never labeled with potential. But he got me to working hard. I got my weight down to 220 as a senior and played pretty well. I don't know why I was offered a scholarship. But Nebraska said Mark Traynowicz, Rob Stuckey and I were the three linemen they wanted."

Since Ken Fischer is Clete Fischer's brother, Nebraska's in-state recruiting coordinator had an insight to an athlete that easily might have been overlooked.

Harry figures Ken Fischer might have given him a good character reference.

"There are two kinds of kids in high school," Grimminger said. "There are the athletes who mess around on the side and the athletes who play football, then go home. Girls didn't like me, so I played football and went home."

All the right moves.
Top and middle photo:
 Rozier races behind
 Grimminger (58), who
 blocks UCLA's Neal
 Dellocono (39), at the
 goal line. Lower photo:
 Again in the 1983
 contest former Husker
 I-back Mike Rozier
 (30), takes the pitch at
 the six and runs left
 behind the block of
 Grimminger (58).

Not having dated in high school or in his first year of college, he considers it serious and respectful business.

Belinda Roberts and Allison Boyd were roommates. Allison, the 1984 Miss Nebraska, has dated Traynowicz for two years. She introduced Belinda to Harry.

"It was funny," Belinda recalled. "He was such a gentleman. He'd just drop me off in front of Selleck and say: 'See you tomorrow.' We dated for a long, long time before he kissed me."

See why Bill Murray could play Harry in "The Life and Times of Harry Grimminger." He could ghostbust the slob right out of him and blossom into the classic good guy who ends up with the pretty girl.

Hollywood would like this romance. Belinda Roberts and Harry Grimminger are an unlikely, but perfect match.

Her father is an orthodontist who was graduated from Nebraska. Ursula Walsh, Nebraska's academic counselor, helped him obtain his master's degree. "He was one of the brightest students I ever had," she recalled.

Belinda lived in Lincoln until moving to Utah in the fourth grade. "I had the red sweatshirts and the whole bit," she said. "I've always been a Nebraska football fan."

Having lived near the mountains, she's also always been attracted to the outdoors. That common interest helped expedite the romance.

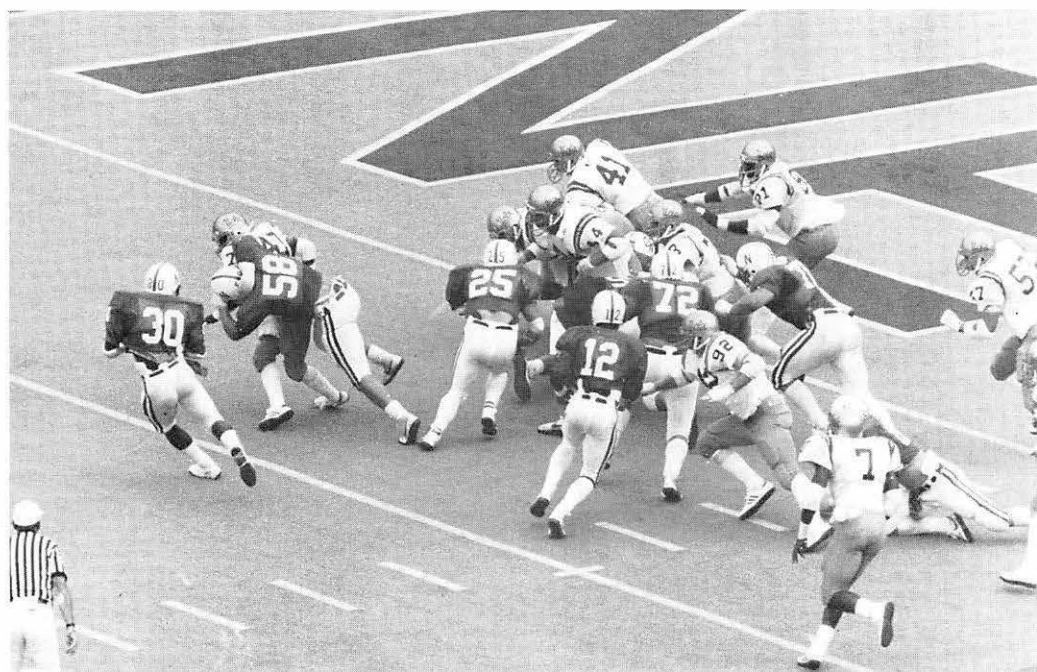
Harry and Belinda not only go to movies together, they fish together. Last spring, the two could be seen in the median of Interstate 80, walking to a favorite fishing pond at the Milford interchange.

Harry (or was it Bill Murray?) wore the white minnow bucket on his head like a conehead. He carried the tackle box in one hand and his fishing pole in the other. Belinda walked right beside him with her fishing gear.

Grimminger, Stuckey, Traynowicz, Graeber and Daum have a strict policy when they fish at the Traynowicz cabin on the Missouri River — no girls.

Matt Traynowicz, Mark's dad, made one exception for Belinda.

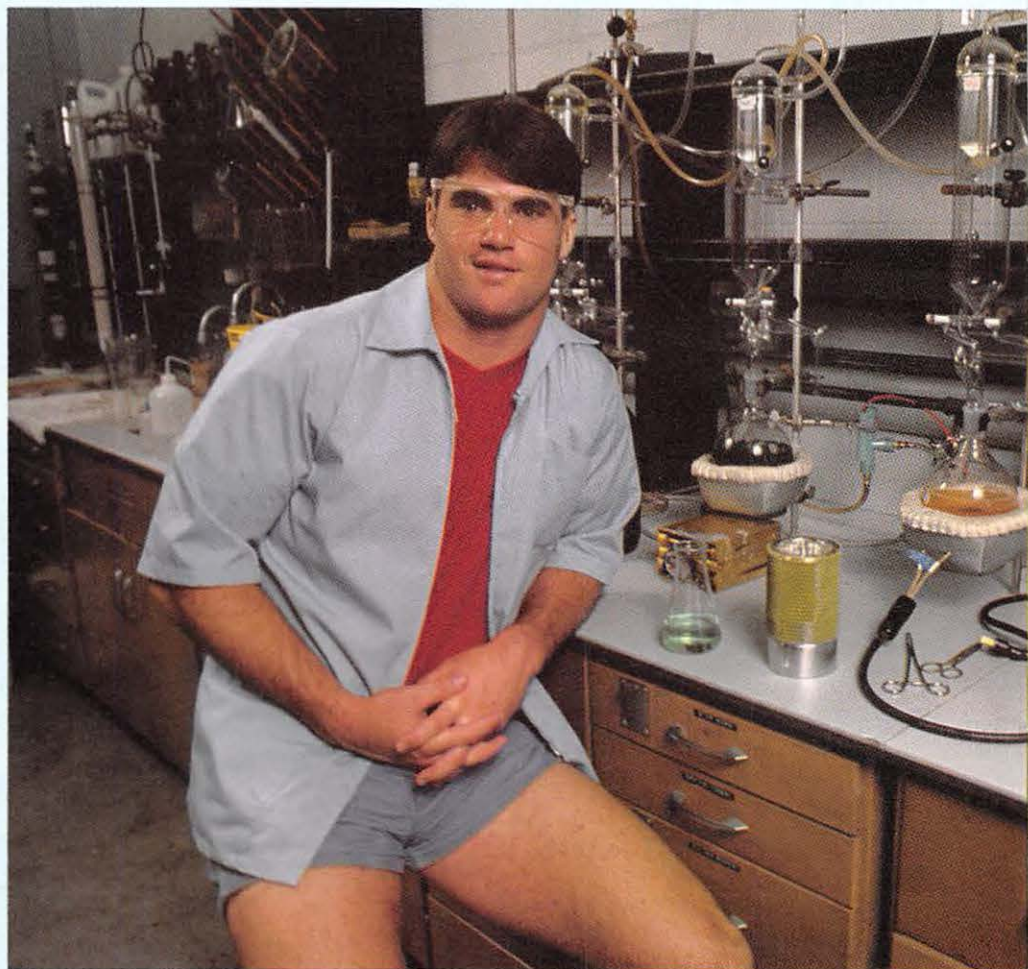
"I've been the only one because I'm willing to do all the dirty work," she said. "I



STRASBURGER

Holdredge native turned down Dartmouth to walk on at Nebraska and later became Academic All-American defensive end.

By Randy York



Maybe now, after the Ivy League has seen the quintessential Nebraska walkon, it has a new respect for Cornhusker football and the people who play it.

Scott Strasburger shattered the image.

Here he was, working on a \$1 million NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) machine in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Philadelphia.

Here he was, performing heart bypasses on New Zealand white rabbits as part of his radiology research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Here he was, fitting in with other premed students from Yale and Penn and Brown.

"I wonder what they thought. I wonder what they expected," offered Ursula Walsh, the Nebraska Academic Counselor who recommended the Huskers' Academic All-American defensive end for this past summer's internship.

Walsh may not know what those Ivy Leaguers expected. But she knows what they got — a quiet, unassuming, yet confident Nebraskan who responds to a challenge in the lab just as dramatically as he responds to a challenge on the field.

"They knew they were not getting just

another member of our football team. They were getting a contributing member...one of our stars...the player who intercepted the pass that beat Oklahoma when he was just a sophomore," Walsh said.

Ursula Walsh knows that her handsome, scholarly ambassador left an indelible imprint.

"Scott didn't seem to have any adolescence," she said. "He came here a little boy. After two years, he took some kind of exponential leap and suddenly, he was a man. His goals were clear from the moment he got here. He took his life in his own hands and it's just been meteoric."

Philadelphia saw Strasburger reaching his academic and social peak and yes, those Ivy Leaguers did see him shatter an image.

"I think they might have expected some hick from Nebraska to show up," Strasburger said. "They admitted their perception of Nebraska was extremely one-dimensional. They had no idea what we had going for us except football."

In no time at all, Strasburger was changing this erroneous stereotype. The former Sig Ep rush chairman and active member of NU's Mortar Board Honor Society was telling the Ivy Leaguers what it was like to live in a small Nebraska town, what it was like to work on a farm and what it was like to turn down an academic scholarship at Dartmouth to walk on at Nebraska.

"I love going somewhere and meeting new people," Strasburger said. "I had a cousin who goes to Penn. But I must have met and got to know 50 people before I left Philadelphia."

Nebraska's quintessential walkon must have impressed his Ivy League friends. Why else would he process an order for 18 football tickets, so they could drive to Syracuse and watch him play?

The news comes as no surprise to Walsh. She has watched Strasburger grow from little boy to influential man.

"Even though Scott's still very quiet and unassuming, there is now a certain force about him," she said. "He not condescending or arrogant. He is simply aware of what he can do and what he is. There's a kind of dignity about him, a presence, an authority that emanates when he enters a room."

Walsh will not claim much of the credit for Strasburger's Academic All-American honor. If he has made himself into a football player, he has made himself into a scholar.

He was valedictorian of the 1981 class at Holdrege High School. His family lived one mile north of town. His father, Ron, is an attorney. His mother, Connie, is a homemaker.

In the summers, Scott worked on a farm, detassling corn, harvesting wheat, hauling grain and irrigating everything.

Football and farming are two of the most important things in Holdrege. "Everybody in Holdrege knows how important a hailstorm is to the wheat crop," Strasburger said. "And football is popular in that whole part of the state, too."

Scott was an eighth-grader when Andy Means left Holdrege and walked on at Nebraska. Like just about everyone else in that community, Scott was shocked when Means, a one-year starter in high school, became a three-year starter at defensive back for the Huskers.

Todd Brown, another graduate from the Southwest Nebraska community of 5,000, walked on after Means and also started three years for the Huskers at split end.

Strasburger, the smartest player Holdrege cranked off the assembly line since Jim Hoge was an Academic All-American 22 years ago, faced a unique problem.

Even though Nebraska football had been a lifelong dream, the Huskers could not gamble on a scholarship. Strasburger had undergone arthroscopic surgery on both of his knees in high school.

The first sidelined him for the last four games of his senior season in football. The second happened at the outset of basketball season.

Nebraska could not gamble on Strasburger, but Wyoming could. The Cowboys offered him a football scholarship and Dartmouth offered him an academic scholarship, plus the chance to compete in football.

During the spring of his senior year in high school, Strasburger was flown to Hanover, New Hampshire, to tour the Dartmouth campus. He had been accepted at an Ivy League school and he almost accepted.

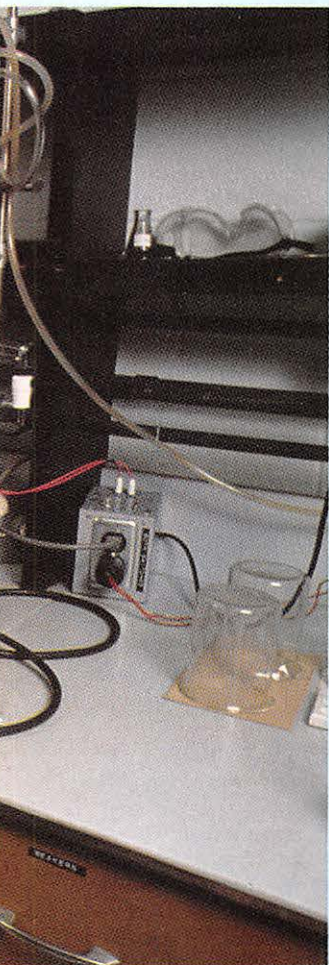
"I knew I wanted a career in medicine," he said. "My family had had seven operations in 2½ years. I had two knee operations. My brother had two knee operations and a bone chip in his wrist. My dad had a knee operation and my sister an appendectomy."

Surgery fascinated Strasburger. He remembers having to spend four days in the hospital after his first knee operation. "I walked out of the hospital seven hours after my second operation and played basketball three weeks later," he recalled. "I knew then that I wanted to specialize in sports medicine and orthopedics."

Strasburger insists academics were the most important thing in his life, even when he was in high school.

Yet he knew he had the talent to play football at Nebraska. "I could understand the apprehension about giving me a scholarship," he said. "If Andy and Todd hadn't come here and started, I don't think I would have turned Dartmouth down."

"I spent more than one sleepless night



Strasburger has applied to several medical schools and is waiting for word. He's wanted to go into medicine since his family had seven operations in two and a half years.



Strasburger (90), attempts to break up a pass play in last year's Syracuse contest.

trying to decide," Strasburger recalled. "Then I realized, I had to try and fulfill both dreams. I knew if I came to Nebraska and worked as hard as Andy did, I would at least have the chance to play. And if it didn't work out, I could always transfer."

Let the record show that Strasburger was an immediate hit, athletically and academically. The former Class B all-state running back spent one day as an I-back, switched to defensive end for the first time in his career and has been there ever since.

His first semester at Nebraska produced A's in General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II. The test tube walkon was off and running.

"Scott is the prototype of the football walkon," Walsh said. "He got a scholarship right after his freshman season. Other than Jimmy Williams, I don't know who else has done that."

Strasburger did not redshirt. He became an effective sophomore back-up to Tony Felici, Nebraska's All-Big Eight senior.

But it was Strasburger, not Felici, who stole the spotlight in the nationally-televised 1982 Nebraska-Oklahoma game.

The memory of that game is not soon forgotten. Here was Strasburger, the 19-year-old with that choir boy look, squeezing a 13-pound inflatable football in his arms long after the radio, newspaper and television interviews.

He looked like someone who had just stolen the whole cookie jar and knew no one cared.

Even though he had been mauled in the North end zone, slapped around on his own sideline and almost tackled on his way back to the locker room, Strasburger had his most prized possession...the ball

he intercepted to end another NU-OU classic.

Surely, you remember the play and the scene that followed. Nebraska was leading, 28-24, but Oklahoma was driving. Everyone in Memorial Stadium had visions of Penn State dancing through their heads.

Then Strasburger intercepted Kelly Phelps' screen pass and returned it to the OU one-yard line. The last 26 seconds of the clock ran out and Strasburger ran off the field, squeezing the precious pigskin in both hands. For the first time in his life, he locked his locker when he took a shower.

Strasburger went on to replace Felici as the starter against Hawaii and played well in the Orange Bowl against LSU. Last year, he had 42 tackles and along with Rob Stuckey, became Nebraska's 27th and 28th Academic All-Americans.

He considered the award the ultimate. "At least it was for me," he said. "The two most important reasons I came to Nebraska were to get an education and play football. To put those together in one award is the best award I could receive."

Despite the honor and a sense of perspective separating football from the classroom, Strasburger took Nebraska's 31-30 loss to Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl as hard as anyone.

"I remember walking into that locker room and showering by myself," he recalled.

He also remembers being a little bit of a zombie, so transfixed by the psychological thud of a once unbeaten season that he left his gym bag in the locker room and headed for the bus in something similar to a sleepwalk.

Eight months later, Strasburger doesn't need a psychiatrist and a couch to analyze his feelings.

"I remember how empty I felt. Then I remember looking into the coaches' room and seeing Coach McBride and Coach Darlington, sitting there in disbelief, looking at the floor," Strasburger said.

"They didn't say anything. They didn't even move," Strasburger said. "I was empty and I'm just a player. But these people do it for a living. I don't know if people understand how important these moments are for the coaches and the players."

Strasburger's roommate in Miami was sophomore defensive back Todd Fisher, but this was one night when he had to be alone with his thoughts and his disappointment.

"We got back to the hotel about 1:30," he recalled. "I opened the door, said four or five words to Todd and left."

Strasburger didn't waste time, going through the hotel lobby. He walked through the laundry room, out the back door and headed straight to the beach.

"I just sat there, right on the edge of the water until the sun came up," he recalled. "I must have been there five hours by myself."

When the sun came up, he went back to his room and crawled into bed. "But I didn't sleep and I didn't go to breakfast."

The what-ifs kept haunting him. "There was one play when I almost got to the quarterback and could have turned the game around," Strasburger said. "And their last field goal attempt just grazed under my arm. Another inch and that could have been a 70-yard touchdown. Even if we'd missed the extra point, we still would have had three minutes left."

Strasburger knows he can't dwell on the past. But in the immediate aftermath of the most disappointing moment of his life, he could not help himself.

"People just don't understand," he said. "You dream about a national championship since you're a little kid. It's there and then, all of a sudden, it's shattered. You can't explain that to anybody. Nobody knows how many hours you've spent and how hard you've worked to get to that point."

Like everyone else on Nebraska's defense, Strasburger could not wait for spring football to start.

"That Orange Bowl taught us all a good lesson," Strasburger said. "Last year, there were times when we thought our offense could do anything. We knew that even if we gave up 21 points, we could win. We also knew it wouldn't be anything like that

this year. We realize we don't have the offense that can get us out of trouble any time."

If the Black Shirts didn't know it, Charlie McBride reminded them. Before spring football started, Nebraska's defensive coordinator went public with the thought that all jobs were open and anyone could apply.

It didn't sit right with everyone. "But he couldn't have come out with that at a better time," Strasburger said. "We didn't deserve to keep our spots after the bowl game and we all knew it. It all started right then. You need a kick in the pants and Coach McBride is the first one to motivate you that way."

The transformation was dramatic in the spring. "It was so obvious," Strasburger said. "We were like two different teams and that was only a matter of three months. It's been the same this fall. People will see the only resemblance to last year will be the numbers."

Strasburger does not exempt himself from the players who needed a competitive and emotional transfusion.

"There were times last year when I wasn't as intense as I should have been," he said. "This year, I won't even think about being intense. It'll just come naturally."

Strasburger doesn't really want to lose the image he has as the Academic All-American. But the choir boy in him is another matter. He has decided to take off the robe and tackle the director.

Even though he always has demonstrated an ability to make the big play, he intends to make those same plays with a great deal more physical force in this his last season.

NU defensive ends coach George Darlington got the first inkling of Strasburger's new element of style last spring. Quarterback Clete Blakeman sprinted laterally on an option play and Strasburger tracked him down before he hit the corner.

"He hit him right in the mouth. It's a wonder he didn't knock the kid clean out," Darlington said. "It's the kind of shot they put on TV highlight films. I suspect you'll see more of 'em this fall."

High-powered collisions will not come by accident. "After listening to all the things said about our defense, we all decided to be more physical," Strasburger said. "It's the old adage that the more hard hitting you watch on film, the more you have a tendency to be frightened. The harder you hit people, the more they'll remember you."

Actually, Strasburger didn't need to shift gears. "He's always had great intensity and great tenacity," Darlington said.

"His high school basketball coach even remembers him diving for every loose ball on the floor or in the stands."

This season, Strasburger wants to finish a play with a certain measure of intimidation. NU coaches expect it to be the difference between him being a very good and a great player.

"Scott's a Bob Martin type of player," Darlington said, comparing Strasburger to a former Husker All-American who spent five years starting in the NFL.

"He probably won't get a smell for All-

American," admitted Darlington. "But five or six big plays in the right game and you'll see the comparison to Martin."

Darlington remembers Strasburger cutting down Spencer Tillman "trying to skid through the back door in last year's Oklahoma game. In the second half of that same game, he ran down Danny Bradley and pushed him outside."

"That's another thing I admire about the kid," Darlington said. "He had a bad groin pull and probably shouldn't even have

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Strasburger, entertaining the kids on photo day.



By Chuck Sinclair

JUST TRY KEEPING UP WITH The Jones Brothers

*BREAKING
RECORDS IS THE
NAME OF THEIR
GAME.*

If you have any designs of keeping up with these Joneses...heed the warning...you're in fast company.

The Joneses, University of Nebraska sophomore Lee Jones and freshman brother Keith Jones, both have speed to burn.

The latest brother combination to wear the Cornhusker red may seem like more of

a faded blur once they get rolling along the Memorial Stadium artificial turf.

At 6-foot-3 and 231 pounds, still relatively small for a defensive tackle, Lee Jones set an impressive family standard when he was clocked in 4.5 over 40 yards.

Still, the elder Jones, despite being a sprinter in high school, knew his time would be unimpressive by comparison to that of his younger brother. After all, Keith is a 5-9, 180 pound I-back.

Lee, a former Super-Stater from Omaha Benson who earned outstanding defensive player honors in the post-season Shrine Bowl Classic, didn't realize how unimpressive his time would be.

Keith, the reigning state 200 meter champion, and Super State offensive cap-

tain, amazed virtually everyone when freshman camp opened by clocking the second fastest 40 yard dash in Nebraska football history.

Jones' 4.30 hand-held time trails only that of all-American Irving Fryar (4.23), and he has four years remaining to try and eclipse that record.

It's just one of many records big brother Lee has his sights set on Keith breaking as a Husker, and he's confident they will fall, just as records have toppled for Keith throughout his football career.

"Even in little league football Keith was breaking records set by Gale Sayers," a proud Lee Jones boasted. "He was always good when he was growing up. He was a very good I-back. He broke records all the

The Jones Brothers:
Keith, (standing), and
Lee the elder. Mom
only has to make one
call to check on her sons
now that they're
roommates at NU.

♦

time. I'm looking forward to him breaking a couple of records around here."

Lee Jones was understandably proud of his brother's past, and popped a few buttons as he watched Keith turn in his 40 time with his eye on the future.

"It was really great. I knew he could run a good time, but I didn't know he'd run that fast," Lee said. "That's really good to come in and run like that — the second fastest ever — I have to admit it shocked me a little bit. I knew he was fast, but not that fast."

Lee Jones used to brag that he could stay with Keith in a sprint, even though the two never raced each other competitively. Now, he concedes defeat, although claiming it would be close.

"Maybe when I was lighter I could have beaten him," Lee said. "I still think I could stay with him, but he'd beat me."

There's always good-natured kidding going on between the two, now roommates for the first time at college. Being roommates isn't the only first for the Jones boys. They're also teammates for the first time.

While it may have seemed natural that the two brothers continue their family relationship on the collegiate level, it's a twist of irony that the pair are on the same team at all.

Despite the fact that just one year separates Lee and Keith, the two have never played organized football together.

"When we were little kids in the neighborhood, we used to have pickup games in the street, but that's the only time we've ever played on the same team," Lee said. "As far as organized teams, we never played together."

Lee prepped at Benson High School in Omaha, where his three sisters and older brother Tony had all gone to school.

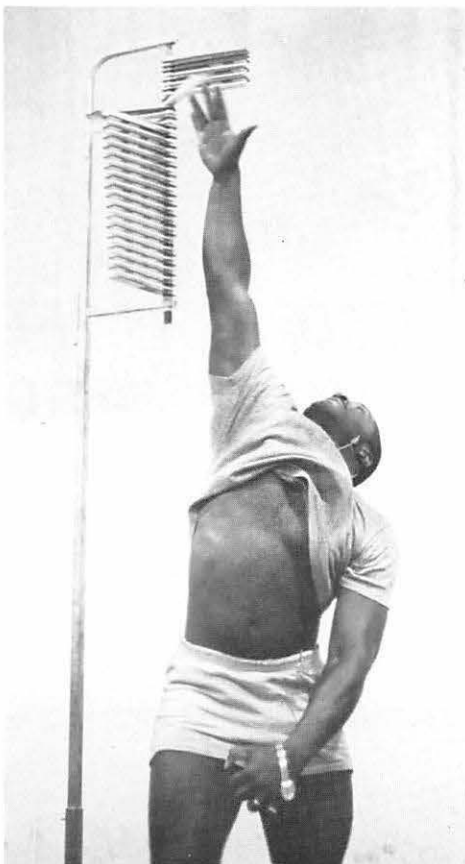
"The situation was that I thought Keith was going to go to Benson. The whole family thought he was going to Benson," Lee said. "That's where everyone else had gone."

When it came time for Keith to enroll in high school, he chose Omaha Central instead.

"I went to Central mostly because of the football coaches," Keith said. "I liked the coaches. I'm not saying I didn't like the Benson coaches, but the Central program gave me an outlook of what my future in football was going to be like."

Keith Jones knows he could have attended Benson, and likely have been a three year varsity starter in football. He also knew he wasn't ready for that type of physical pounding at that tender age.

"Sure, I probably could have started my sophomore year at Benson, but I didn't figure like I was really ready physically for the varsity," Keith said. "So I went to Central and grew into a starting position. I only weighed about 150 pounds, and I was only about 5-7. I didn't want to risk injury. I only wanted to play on the level



Lee Jones, shown here making the record-breaking vertical jump at his position — 32½"...

I was at. I don't try to go up and compete on a higher level...until it's time."

Despite an impressive beginning at Nebraska, with his lightening fast 40 time, and the fact that he scored on a 55-yard run the first time he touched the ball in a freshman scrimmage situation, Keith Jones is in no hurry to climb to the varsity level and join Lee, a second team defensive tackle.

"I'm pretty sure that if I told Coach (Tom) Osborne that I wanted to try and scrimmage with the varsity to see what I

could do, that he would let me," Keith said. "I think he would give me the opportunity, but I don't think I'm ready. I'll just stay where I'm at until I grow into the varsity."

Lee doesn't care when Keith grows into a varsity position. He knows the time will come, and his brother will be ready to make the best of it. And Lee Jones is just happy that Keith Jones decided to become a teammate of his for the first time.

"Now that we're on the same team, we're rah-rahing together, cheering together. It's pretty exciting having your little brother on the same team."

That could pose problems when it comes to getting the entire family into a Nebraska game.

"The girls don't go in much for football," Keith said. "Except Mom. One of my sisters came down to watch a Nebraska game last year and actually fell asleep. Can you believe that? With all those people yelling and screaming. Maybe it'll be different with both of us here, but I doubt it."

Lee gets excited enough for the whole family.

"We're a real close family," Lee said. "That's why I was just as excited when Keith decided to come to Nebraska as I was when they offered me a scholarship."

The bigger surprise for Lee was being offered a scholarship himself. "When I was a senior, I thought I was pretty good, but I also thought I was too small to be recruited by a major college. I couldn't believe it when Nebraska offered me."

That was about the time he thought his little brother Keith might also be a possible recruit. "I knew he was a good I-back, and I figured if he kept working hard, he might be recruited, too," Lee said.

That recruiting process was cause for a little unrest by big brother Lee.

Despite the closeness, Lee wasn't real sure of which way Keith was leaning during recruiting. Just when he thought Keith had decided to attend Nebraska, he heard rumors that the University of Washington was well in the picture.

"He tried to tell us he was thinking about going to LSU or Washington," Lee said. "I knew that he wasn't because he had mentioned one time in an article that he wanted to go play with his big brother. I kept that in mind, but he still scared me when I heard he was thinking about Washington. When he finally decided on Nebraska, I was very happy."

For awhile, Lee thought it might be like the time he thought Keith was going to

Benson, only to lose him to Central, "but he made the right decision," Lee said.

Lee played an active role in the recruiting of Keith, but never to the point of being overbearing.

"I talked to him, and told him all the benefits of going to Nebraska," Lee said. "I told him how things were run here, and what kind of different situations to expect. I'm not sure what he thought about them. He just listened. It was his decision. Whatever he was going to do, he was going to do it."

Keith appreciated his brother's honest effort at recruiting, as he did the entire approach by the Nebraska staff.

"Lee wanted me to come here, really bad," Keith said. "He never sat down and told me the advantages I would have over other places if I came to Nebraska. He'd tell me things about Nebraska, but he never talked about the other schools."

"I tease him a lot about Washington. Until I took that trip, people were thinking it was all Nebraska for me. I guess I got a lot of people thinking."

What got Keith thinking about Washington was the stark beauty of the area. That caught his attention the most. But he then sat down and evaluated the entire scope of the decision, and decided beauty alone wouldn't cut it for four years.

"I don't think beauty of a city is what you should base your college decision on," Keith said. "I evaluated the football program, the coaches and also the academic programs, and Nebraska came out on top. It was never a situation where I was going to Washington. It was where I had made up my mind to go to Nebraska, Washington was just somewhat of a hinderance to me totally committing to Nebraska earlier."

He can see no rich forests or majestic mountains from his dorm room at Harper Hall, but what he can see is his brother sleeping in the bed across the room.

"I wanted him for my roommate so I wouldn't have to adjust to anybody else as far as the formality about how someone else lives," Keith said. "Being from the same family really helps out."

It also means Mom just has to make one phone call to check on the two of them.

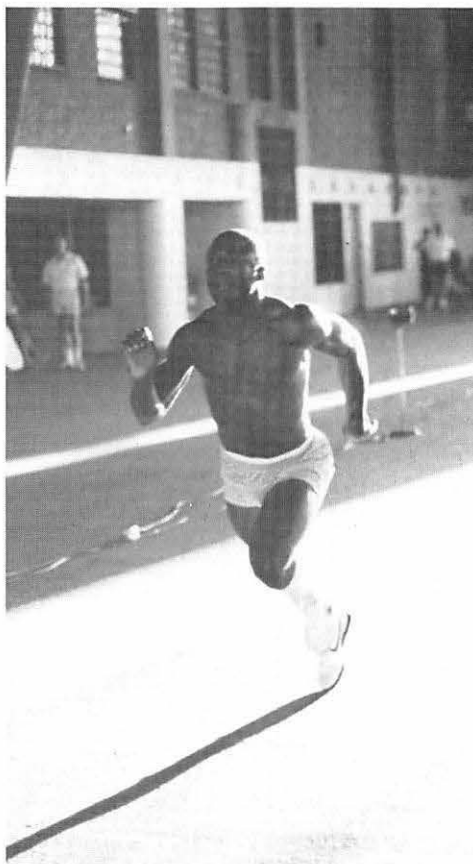
"She worries about us," Lee said. "She worries that we'll get hurt, or that we won't study, or that we'll forget or religion. She doesn't let us forget that."

It was a religious experience, Keith said, that brought two boys in the same family closer together.

"We weren't always so close," Keith

said. "We've had some pretty rough times in our relationship. Then we accepted Christ in our lives, and it's really helped our personal relationship. So has growing up, becoming more mature."

The two are getting along better than ever now, as teammates and roommates, even though Keith says he hardly ever sees



...And Keith Jones, shown here clocking the second fastest 40-yard dash time in Nebraska football history — 4.50 (electronic).

his older brother.

"That's about the only time I see him, when I wake up in the morning," Keith joked.

"I told him about the beginning of fall practice, and how it would seem easy at first, but then it would get really tough," Lee said. "He said he's in shape, and he can handle it. Then he came to me and said this is crazy, and he's really tired. I said 'I told you so.'"

"Lee has more or less told me what to

expect out there," Keith said. "He's told me how people would react, and how hard people are trying to make the football team. He told me to watch out for cheap shots, and he told me I should just run like I normally run."

That's the part of the advice that Keith enjoyed the most.

"I feel real good about what I've accomplished here so far on the field in practice," Keith said. "Up until now, I thought college football would be a drastic big change. But I feel that football is football no matter what level it's played on. Sure, people hit you harder in college, so you just have to run that much harder."

"I don't look at my efforts now as trying to make a team. I just look at them as trying to run as I normally run. That should take care of itself."

That's why Keith doesn't concern himself with being on the varsity level to practice as a freshman. If Coach Osborne called, however, Keith would listen.

"I think it would be a compliment if he thought I was physically ready to play on that level," he said. "But I would still have to talk to him about it and tell him how I felt. Unless I'm confident myself as far as competing on the varsity level, I don't think I should be out there playing."

Lee Jones is hoping there's plenty of playing time for him on the varsity this year, something he never even dreamed possible a year ago.

"I really didn't think I was going anywhere as a football player because of my size," Lee said. "I feel good about it now. Right now I'm second team behind Rob Stuckey and Jim Skow. I feel privileged about that. Now, if I could only put some weight on. It doesn't seem to want to stay on these bones."

"I'm looking forward to a successful season. I know it's going to take a lot of hard work."

All work and no play even makes brothers weary, so on occasion, the two mess around with Lee's new toy, a 400 cc Kawasaki motorcycle.

"That's why I'm never home," Lee said with a smile. "I've been riding."

Occasionally, Keith hops on the bike and rides it to the training table for a meal while Lee finishes up varsity practice.

There's hardly room, however, for the two of them at the same time.

Fortunately, that's not the case concerning the Nebraska football team. There's plenty of room for the Joneses, but keeping up with them the next few years may be a difficult task. ♦

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Missouri Series

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he had time and again been disconcerted by Missouri's blitzing defense.

The touchdown drive included key Gill pass completions of 13 yards to Irving Fryar and 24 and 21 yards to split end Todd Brown. The 21-yarder gave Nebraska the ball at the Missouri four-yard line with time running out.

Nebraska punter Grant Campbell played a key role in the victory, averaging 40.1 yards per kick on seven kicks. Five times Campbell pinned the Tigers inside their own 15-yard line.

OCTOBER 23, 1982

NEBRASKA 23, MISSOURI 19

AT LINCOLN — Reserve quarterback Bruce Mathison and injured I-back Mike Rozier saved the day for a Nebraska team which had to battle without its general, Turner Gill, throughout the second half.

Gill left the game with a mild concussion after being leveled by Tiger defender Randy Jostes, late in the first half.

Mathison, a little-used senior, came on

and, after getting warmed up, led a fourth-quarter surge, taking Nebraska 70 yards in 11 plays to score with 4:45 left and then running 16 yards for the final touchdown with 2:36 left.

Rozier battled the pain of a hip pointer and an always-aggressive Missouri defense for 139 yards in 17 carries, in a performance that earned him honors as Big Eight Conference "Offensive Player of the Week."

Linebacker Brent Evans, a Missourian, came off the bench and set up Mathison's touchdown run by intercepting a Brad Perry pass.

OCTOBER 15, 1983

NEBRASKA 34, MISSOURI 13

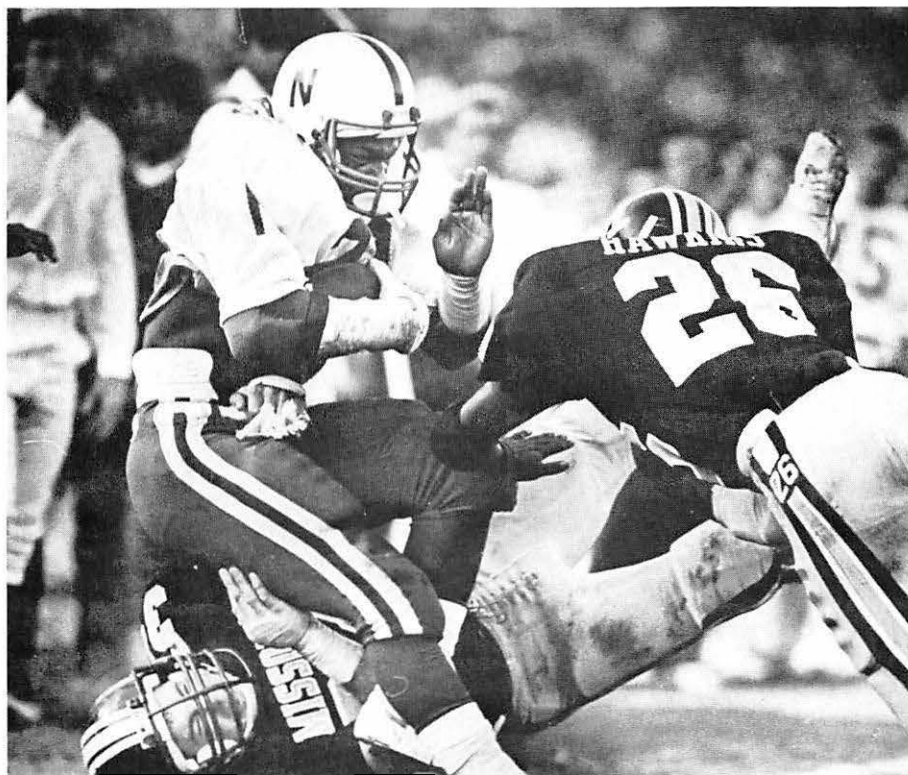
AT COLUMBIA — Nebraska's seventh consecutive victory wasn't as easy as the final score indicated. The Cornhuskers had to protect a seven-point lead throughout the third quarter before putting the contest away in the fourth.

The Cornhusker "Triplets" Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar provided the offensive thrust. Gill completed 14 of 18 passes for 151 yards and two touchdowns. Fryar, despite missing the second quarter with the flu, caught seven of the passes for 95 yards and the two touchdowns.

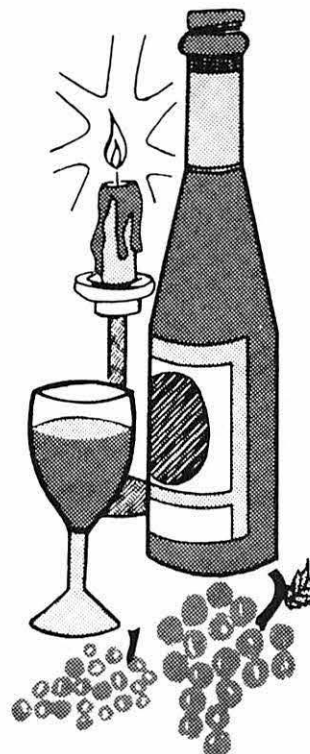
And Rozier carried 24 times for 159 yards and two touchdowns, one on a 60-yard run in the second quarter.

Defensive tackle Mike Keeler came up with a big fumble recovery in the shadow of the Nebraska goal posts in the second half to stymie Missouri's Marlon Adler-directed comeback attempt. ♦

The Nebraska-Missouri series is hard hitting, as Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier learns when he scores a fourth-quarter touchdown in the Cornhuskers' 34-13 victory at Columbia in 1983.



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Grimminger

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used to clean trout in Utah. I think I impressed 'em when I gave 'em a seminar on how to clean carp. When I could show 'em all the parts, I think I got accepted. But they still haven't let me go back up there."

Belinda has an uncanny ability to turn things around. Harry admits she has impressed his mother on causes she feared were lost.

"Getting Harry to clean up was one thing," Belinda said. "And he hasn't gotten a flat top...his mother thanks me for that."

"I just use reverse psychology," she related. "I tell him to go ahead and get a flat top. It's worked every time. I'm not a psychology major for nothing."

Sometimes, her amateur analysis helps his perfectionist demands.

"Harry is very intense about this sport and very critical of his performance," Belinda said. "When he watches films, if it's short of perfection, he criticizes himself. He really believes you can achieve perfection on each play. I have to stick him in the side and tell him it's one of his biggest faults."

His strengths are fairness and his honesty. "I know football is first and foremost right now. But his friends know they can count on him for anything," Belinda said. "And he's really turned himself around. He knows how younger kids look up to him and he doesn't want to come off wrong."

Harry Grimminger is finally becoming the man his parents have always wanted him to be.

His father, Sam, was the Hall County Attorney in Grand Island for nine years before entering private practice. His mother, Kay, is an art teacher at Barr Junior High School.

"I was going to go into law when I got down here," Harry said. "But I've had my problems. I didn't adapt to playing football and going to school. I've got my average back up to 3.0, but I had a couple of bad semesters."

Through all his problems, Harry's parents have remained supportive. "They support me whatever I do," he said. "I know my mom's a little upset about what I want to do now. But she'll still support me. She just wants me to get my degree."

After thinking about pre-law and trying business, Harry is majoring in exercise science. "I think I want to be a strength coach," he said.

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"Business and law are two fields that are really saturated," Grimminger pointed out. "Eventually, I'd like to be a college coach. But I'd like to teach and coach on the high school level, too. I've grown up through this system. I wouldn't mind sharing the experience."

Tenopir, for one, thinks Grimminger would be a good coach.

His favorite story goes back to last year when he noticed that Harry Grimminger was listed on an Orange Bowl roster as Hank Grimminger.

On Christmas Day, when the Huskers did not practice in Miami, Tenopir asked the inevitable question.

"Grimminger," he asked, "is your first name Harry or Hank?"

"Harry, but I wish it was Hank," replied Grimminger.

Later, Tenopir noticed that Harry had been signing his name "Harry P. Grimminger."

"Harry," asked Tenopir, "what does the P stand for?"

"Pig," Grimminger replied.

Can you imagine Bill Murray delivering the same line?

Remember, that was "Pig" in the "Before Belinda Era."

The slob is a genuine good guy now.

He'll never wear a pink shirt, but he'll always take a shower. And he will always, always hustle.

"Of all the kids we have or have had, Harry's out hustled 'em all," Tenopir said. "He's won his job over better athletes purely and simply because of his hustle."

Fischer thinks he gives Nebraska a positive influence and a unique personality.

"Harry keeps everybody loose and everybody working," Fischer said. "He loves football. He loves games. He loves practice. He has a lot of pride. He was good last year, but I think he'll be great this year."

Grimminger tries to analyze himself, but doesn't understand all the praise. "I don't even like Pete Rose, really," he said. "But I do have to make up for my lack of ability with hustle."

"I'm not the meanest guy on the team," Harry insisted. "A lot of guys just think that because of the way I grunt and growl. I like to hit just as much as the next guy. But I get my rear end whipped more than anybody."

Even with Belinda's influence, Harry will never lose his ability to surprise people.

Last spring, for instance, he went camping with his friends on the Big Blue River.

"Harry wanted to rough it," Graeber recalled. "He refused to take a cot or a sleeping bag. He plopped himself into the biggest mud puddle around and fished there all day. He even slept in the mud that night."

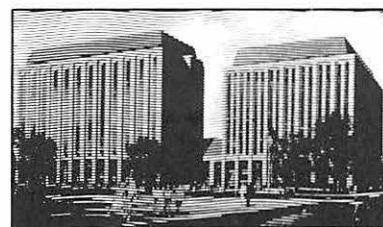
Bill Murray needs this script and if he gets it, he absolutely has to play the lead. ♦



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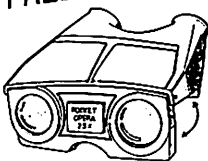
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Strasburger

Page 43

played the second half of the Oklahoma game. Dr. (Pat) Clare saw that and called him one tough monkey. He really had no business playing. Dr. Clare just marveled at him."

That ability will be what someday makes Dr. Scott Strasburger.

"He's been able to perform in pressure situations," Darlington said. "That's the kind of guy you want to operate on you — one who doesn't panic when something goes wrong, especially when he's playing around with your body."

Walsh said there was no doubt in her mind about recommending Strasburger for this past summer's internship with Dr. Gerald L. Wolf, a medical professor at Penn.

Wolf was graduated from Hastings College, where he was a student at the time Tom Osborne was earning back-to-back awards as "State College Athlete of the Year."

Wolf wrote to Walsh. In part, his letter said: "We always have six to eight highly-qualified pre-meds from various sources each year, but we haven't had any athletes. In medicine, the Ivy League schools are somewhat more prestigious than the Big Eight, and an association with a quality program proves beneficial to those who will pursue medicine after collegiate sports."

Walsh admits she has not "had a whole lot of conversation" with Strasburger because he is so self-motivated.

"But his record kind of screams at you from the file that 'I'm the one,'" she said. "I knew how well he would do."

Strasburger was told that he was the first summer intern at Penn west of Pittsburgh.

"I lived at a fraternity house with 12 guys and 10 girls," he said. "There were seven pre-med students interning. It was an incredible experience. We got an opportunity to work with some of the most sophisticated radiology equipment there is."

Strasburger called it "the most structured summer I've ever spent."

After each work day, he would work out with two Penn players and one Brown player at Franklin Field. "I fit in right away," he said.

Scott Strasburger is not all football and pre-med. "I'm not that busy. I have a social life," he said. "I like to watch all kinds of old movies. I use my time to relax and slow down. I'll go to a bar and have fun. I'll just order a Coke."

Strasburger said he learned to have fun, growing up in Holdrege.

"My parents are just as active as I am," he said. "My dad plays a lot of golf and my mom plays a lot of tennis."

Strasburger and his brother, Matt, also an NU player, "did everything in high school — football, basketball, track and baseball. My parents didn't miss a game, home or away, all the time we were growing up. When I was a freshman, they'd watch me play in the afternoon, go back to Holdrege and watch my brother and come back to Lincoln and watch the varsity the next day. That's dedication."

The same dedication has allowed Kristi Strasburger to excel as a volleyball player and cheerleader at Holdrege High School.

Darlington believes if Strasburger had redshirted one season, he would be a "can't miss" All-American.

As it is, the 21-year-old (he won't be 22 until Feb. 14) will graduate in four years with a predicted 3.80 average in pre-med and star on a high-powered football team for three years.

"He has the ability to play pro football," Darlington said, "but I don't know where that would fit in with his other plans."

Strasburger, indeed, has his heart set on medical school. He has applied or will apply to nine — Stanford, Yale, University of Chicago Pritzker, Duke, Baylor, Nebraska, Northwestern, Penn and Tulane.

"Stanford is my top choice, Yale No. 2 and Chicago-Pritzker No. 3," he said. "I thought about applying to John Hopkins, but I didn't really like the location (in Baltimore)."

Scott Strasburger is still your basic Nebraska small-town boy.

"I think people were surprised this summer when I told them I couldn't think of a more enjoyable place to live than Nebraska," he said. "They'd never thought about their lives being so fast-paced. Medical school is my top priority, too. But I like to take time, sit down and talk to people. And play football."

For the Ivy Leaguers, Scott Strasburger shattered an image.

Ursula Walsh's questions are interesting. You wonder what they thought. You wonder what they expected. ♦

a little about the NU women

Freshman Maurice Ivy, a highly-regarded basketball recruit from Central High School in Omaha, was chosen by both the *Lincoln Sunday Journal-Star* and *Omaha World Herald* newspapers as the state's Outstanding Female Prep Athlete for 1983-84. Ivy also was named the state's winner of the Hertz No. 1 Award for Excellence in high school sports.

Ivy scored a game-high 17 points, 10 of them in the fourth quarter, in leading a heavily-favored North team to an 83-61 victory in the fifth annual Nebraska Coaches All-Star Game at the Devaney Sports Center....

Nebraska volleyball players Cathy Noth and Karen Dahlgren were members of the 1984 United States Junior National team which competed in Europe during the summer. The 24-player squad played matches in Italy, Finland and West Germany. According to NU Coach Terry Pettit, the Junior National Team is intended "to give young players with (senior) national team potential some international experience."

The Senior National Team, of course, won a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles....

NU women's basketball assistant Holly Warlick was one of 12 members of an all-star team that played against the United States' gold medal team during its preparations for the Olympic Games. Warlick was a four-year starter at Tennessee and became the first athlete at that university, male or female, to have a jersey retired....

Former Husker sprinter Merlene Ottey, won two Olympic bronze medals competing for Jamaica....

Nebraska's Trischa Zorn, the first handicapped athlete ever to earn a collegiate varsity scholarship, set a world record and earned two gold medals at the third International Games for the Disabled in Uniondale, N.Y., over the summer. Zorn, who's from Mission Viejo, Calif., won the Class B2 (less than one-third normal vision) 100-meter freestyle in a record time of 1:10.14, nearly two seconds faster than the previous mark.

Zorn was a three-time All-American in high school. She was a silver medalist in the 200-yard backstroke at the Big

Work and optimism

For over two hundred years one of the strongest traits of American character has been optimism, the confidence that in our system hard work and good ideas would produce progress and prosperity.



That self-confidence is not as evident as it once was. Events have raised questions and shaken faith. Some believe the system is impaired and needs to be changed. Others fear that America is losing its capacity to compete in the world marketplace of work and ideas, that our march to destiny is faltering.

Such fears are not groundless. There are real dangers and real challenges.

Challenges do not yield to timidity, nor dangers to hand-wringing. Our destiny is still in our own control, and it will be whatever we choose to make it through hard work, good ideas — and optimism.

Perhaps it takes an effort of will to be optimistic when circumstances seem to dictate pessimism. But it pays to remember that our system has always worked best when we had the most faith in it. When we understand that, the system works for America. And we are the system.



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Eight Swimming and Diving Championships last year.

north to Alaska

Junior Mark Honnor, a baseball pitcher, was one of four Cornhuskers to spend his summer playing in the prestigious Alaskan semipro league.

Honnor was 2-2 for the North Pole Nicks and returned to Nebraska with a forkball and an improved changeup, pitches he's continuing to work on during fall practice. For the former Lincoln Northeast athlete playing in Alaska "was like a dream, I guess you might say."

Pitching in the Alaskan League was far from being a dream. The ground is hard and rippled from the permafrost three feet down, and "if a ball hits a permafrost ridge, it goes bouncing off into the outfield," Honnor said. "It's a hitter's league up there, as far as I'm concerned. They've got some big sticks, and you've got to watch what you throw those guys.

"If a pitcher can survive in Alaska,

he's accomplished something." Honnor left one game after 7½ innings with an eight-run lead, and his team's relief pitchers couldn't hold on. The Nicks lost the game 11-10.

The three other Cornhuskers who played in Alaska were first baseman Mike Duncan, pitcher Jeff Koenigsman, and pitcher-catcher Bill McGuire. Duncan and Koenigsman were members of the Alaska Goldpanners, a team based in Fairbanks, and McGuire played for the Anchorage Glacier Pilots. Honnor never faced Duncan and pitched to McGuire only once.

"We looked at each other real serious and snarled. Then, all of a sudden, we started smiling. We couldn't help it," said Honnor....

McGuire was named to the All-Big Eight Conference team both as a catcher and a relief pitcher, only the second time in conference history a player has been named at two positions. He batted .332 and posted a 3-3 record as a pitcher for the Cornhuskers. NU Coach John Sanders says the big right-hander will

likely be a starting pitcher this season. McGuire struck out 44 in 48 innings last spring....

NU pitchers Mike Dobbs and Roger Webb spent the summer playing for a semipro team in Ventura, Calif., and working as security guards at the Olympic village near Lake Casitas, Calif., protecting rowing and canoeing athletes. Cornhusker Phil Harrison also drove from Glendale, Calif., to pitch for the Ventura team.

they said it

Former Cornhusker baseball player Bob Sebra, who pitched his way to the Triple-A level in the Texas Rangers' minor league system during the summer, on the difference between pitching in Rookie League ball and pitching in Triple-A: "In rookie ball, the batters swing at everything you throw, and you get hit hard. They're smarter hitters in Triple-A. They look for one pitch, and if they get it, they're going to hit it. In Rookie ball, they just go up there hacking away three times."

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Sebra began the summer at the Rangers' Class AA team in Tulsa. After starting out 5-5, he won five games in a row to earn the promotion to Oklahoma City in the American Association. Prior to the season, only his second in professional baseball, he was projected as a Class A pitcher.

When he went to minor league spring training, however, "I told them they hadn't made the right decision," Sebra said. "I said I'd definitely be in Double-A by the end of the summer." He went a step farther....

NU basketball Coach Moe Iba says he favors the 45-second clock for Big Eight play. He was one of seven conference coaches who voted for such a clock during the Big Eight meetings in Kansas City last spring. Even so, Iba doesn't think a clock will speed up games. "I think you're going to see more zones and more packed defenses underneath the goal, which I don't think will cause a lot of excitement.

"We played with the 30-second clock in the NIT last year and a 45-second

clock this year, and it didn't affect our game. I don't think we ever take 45 seconds to shoot the ball unless we're in a delay-type situation near the end of the game."....

NU gymnastics Coach Francis Allen on Cornhusker freshman Tom Schlesinger: "He's probably the best p-bar man who's ever come to Nebraska as a freshman." Schlesinger is from Poudre High School in Fort Collins, Colo. He also visited Oklahoma, Ohio State and California-Berkeley.

and finally....

This year's Nebraska football media guide is dedicated to Lyell Bremser, "Mr. Nebraska Football." Bremser has retired from his duties as the voice of KFAB radio's Nebraska Football Network.

In his dedication, NU assistant athletic director and sports information director Don Bryant writes:

"During the past 45 football seasons — through thick and thin, victory and defeat, winning streaks and losing

streaks, rookie coaches and veteran coaches — Lyell's voice has carried the drama and excitement of Nebraska football to millions via KFAB Radio and the Nebraska Football Network. This fall will mark the first time since 1938 that Bremser will not be shouting, 'Man, women and child — look at those Cornhuskers roll!'

"Many youngsters grew up loving the Cornhuskers, thanks to Lyell's vivid and colorful accounts of the action on the gridiron. And when they grew older they became fans cheering in Memorial Stadium — and probably also listening to Lyell via a pocket radio and ear-phones.

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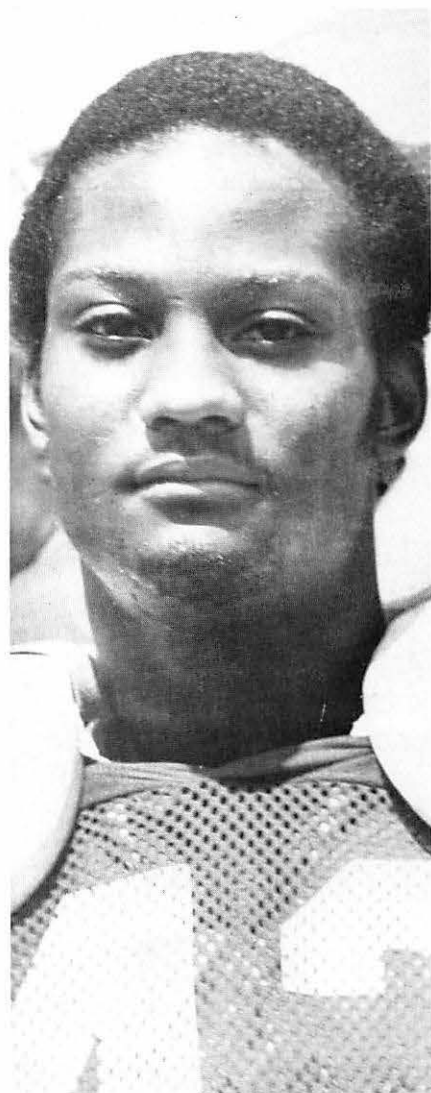
From The West

Holloway and Parker
finally end up on the
same team.

By Chuck Sinclair

From The East

Tony Holloway,
defensive end.



They came from worlds apart, Tony Holloway and Stan Parker, and settled into the same community.

The sons of Air Force enlisted men grew up with much in common in that respect, despite the fact that Parker was born in Moses Lake, Washington, and Holloway in the tiny community of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

Yet Holloway and Parker actually had very little in common in their formative years.

The baby of the family, Holloway had three brothers to pattern himself after, and just one sister, while Parker had four sisters, and just one brother.

Holloway also had sports heavily involved in his upbringing. But Parker just happened upon the game of football as a seventh grader, and then had to persuade his parents to go against the norm of his upbringing to compete in sports.

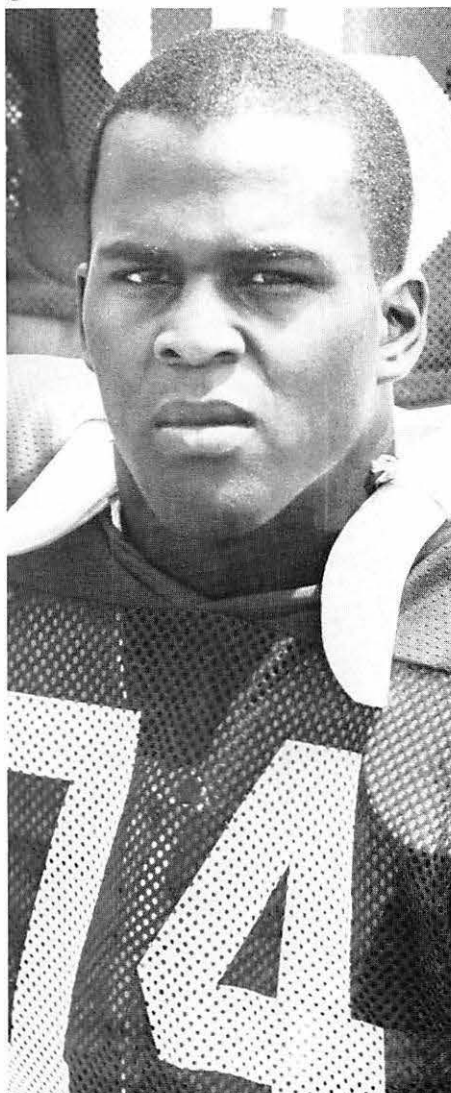
"People in my family got jobs when they were 16," Parker said. "I was out of the norm. My parents were brought up in a high school that didn't hardly have any sports. Sports were new to them, and new to me. We didn't play sports much in the neighborhood, and I hated watching football on television."

Despite the fact that sports were new when he finally got the bug, he knew he was going to love them.

Even Stan was working at the time, with a paper route, when he first wanted to try organized athletics as a seventh grader.

"I had to get one of my sisters to deliver

Stan Parker, offensive
guard.





Holloway takes time to visit with the fans on photo day.

my papers," Parker said. "And I had to talk mom and dad into it. It was difficult because most kids are exposed to sports at a younger age. I had no exposure at all."

Ironically, after breaking the biggest barrier, sports became a bond between Stan and his parents Willy and Ruby; especially between Stan and his father.

"He was never put in a supportive role like that before," Parker recalled. "And while he was apathetic at first because he didn't know how to react, he never misses a game anymore. He really got into it in high school."

"Football has really brought the two of us closer together. It really gave us something to enjoy together. When I was being recruited, we sat up many a night and just talked it over. It wasn't automatic before. It is now."

Parker said his mother was always supportive, although she was worried about the prospects of her son getting hurt.

"She said she'd rather have me wrestle than play football, and I could never understand that," he said. "Mom was supportive in other ways, too. She's always worked, and she likes to work. But she set me down early when it was time to work. She told me if I went out for sports, she would give me an allowance."

"At times, I would look around and see the rest of the family working, and think that I should be doing that, too."

Holloway said his parents were very supportive of athletics from the start.

"They didn't push me, they just followed me and supported me," Tony said. "Mom (Frances) was a little wary at first."

But I was very active as a kid. I'd been playing organized football for three years when Stan started. I feel that's helped me a lot along the way."

Wardell Holloway said he always enjoyed watching all his sons compete. Tony was the only one real active in football,

however.

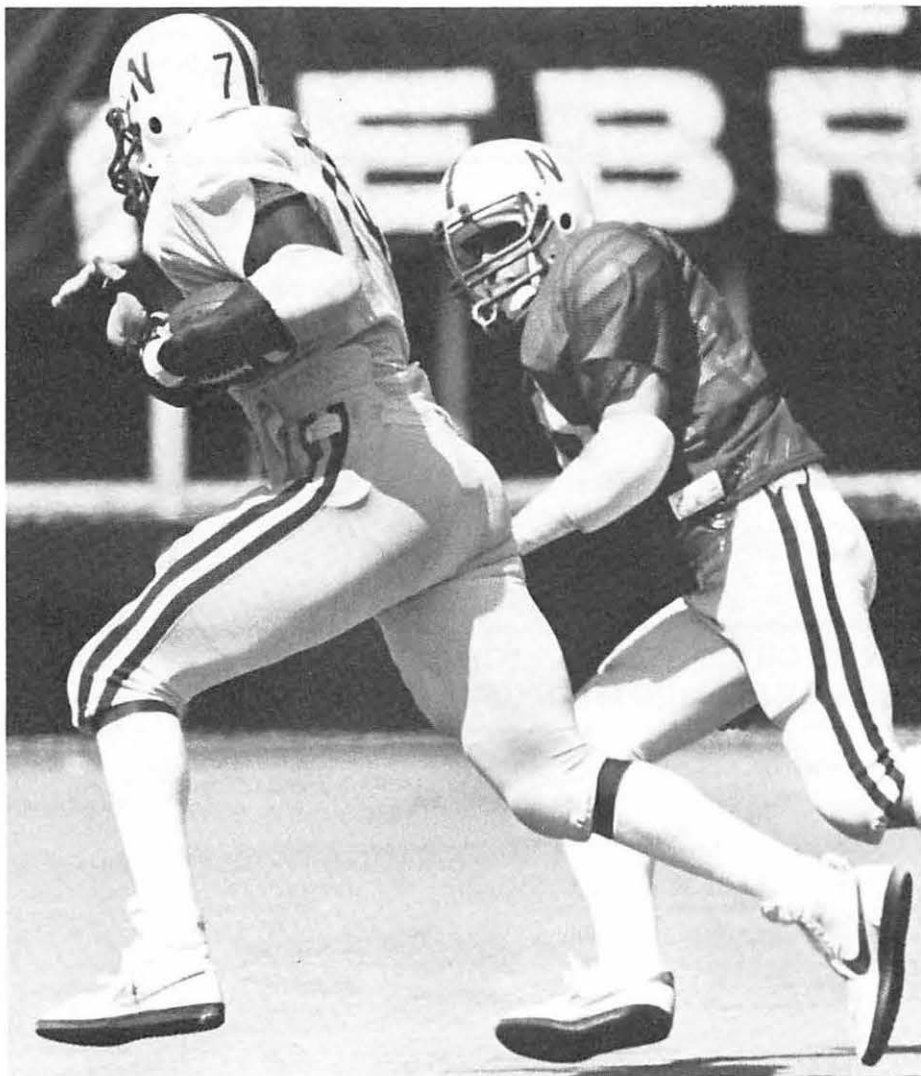
"He played since he was eight years old," Wardell said. "He stuck with it and worked hard at it."

One of the reasons, according to Tony, is that his older brothers didn't carry their athletic potential through.

"My brother Wardell and another brother Andre were always good in bas-

ketball. Wardell was exceptional in track, but he had knee problems and never carried it through," he said. "Andre didn't really follow through either. It made me determined to do my best, and not fade out."

"I think I'm still peaking. I haven't reached it yet. I feel a lot more comfortable



Stan Parker (74), gets a rare opportunity to run with the ball in the Red-White Spring game after picking up an intentional fumble on Nebraska's famed "fumbleroosky" play.

on the field all the time."

Despite the differences in their backgrounds, Parker and Holloway were still friends through junior high, even though Parker went to Mission Junior High, and Holloway attended Logan.

They looked forward to the day they could be teammates at Bellevue High School, a proven training ground for University of Nebraska football stars like Rik Bonness, Joe Adams and Monte Anthony.

But that day never came.

When the pair reached the ninth grade, Bellevue split the high school into two —

dynasty for a long, long time. It has turned out a lot of quality players. We were at different schools, but we were both Bellevue."

Parker had the tradition of the old school, and Holloway had a nice new building with the most advanced learning and training facilities.

But Holloway would find West quickly starting its own athletic tradition, aided by current Husker center Mark Traynowicz.

The University of Nebraska was big around Bellevue West when Holloway started because Nebraska Coach Tom Os-

"I don't even know what the term Air Force brat is," Parker said. "I think it's more for Colonel's and General's kids."

"It's more for the upper brass," Holloway said.

"We're just enlisted men's kids," Parker said.

They don't have the brass, but Holloway and Parker have the class, and should easily continue the Bellevue tradition of quality contributions to the Nebraska football program.

The two have recently gone through position changes that should enhance their

East and West.

Once again Holloway and Parker would split; Stan to the East and Tony to the West.

"That was disappointing because I had a lot of friends at Mission, and Bellevue always had such good teams. We would have been a lot stronger team at one school.

"We still had Bellevue in common," Parker said. "Bellevue did have a football

borne was courting Traynowicz at the time.

When they started doing the same with Holloway at West and Parker at East, the two finally realized their goal of becoming teammates. They just had to travel 50 more miles to do it as Cornhuskers.

Moving and adapting to that stage in their respective careers was easy for Air Force kids, but don't get Parker and Holloway confused with Air Force brats.

opportunities for success. After redshirting his freshman year on a hardship because of a pre-fall camp knee injury, Parker has gone from a tight end candidate to offensive tackle, and most recently offensive guard.

His current status as a sophomore is second team behind Greg Orton on the right side. His obvious goal is to start.

Holloway played his first two years at linebacker before being switched to a de-



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fensive end. Although never redshirted, that is still a possibility for Holloway this season as he ranks behind Scott Strasburger and Gregg Reeves on the depth chart on the right side.

"My (redshirt) situation is a little unusual. It's about the same as Ricky Simmons'. As a sophomore he played a little varsity, then switched to split end and redshirted. I was at linebacker and switched to defensive end."

For Holloway, the switch wasn't entirely foreign to him.

"When you're playing linebacker, you

why there was never any animosity on my part with everything that has happened," he said. "I got hurt, came back and had to start real low on the depth chart. All of a sudden out of the blue, they were talking about moving me to tackle. Tackle?"

"I made the move and played freshman ball, but I didn't gain enough weight. So when I came back again, they said they wanted to move me to guard."

Guard is where Parker feels he's found a home.

"I really enjoy playing guard," Parker said. "It's a challenging position. It's not

films," he laughed. "Yet...."

Parker has a mission of his own now concerning football. It wasn't long ago when we reached a milestone in his life where he wondered if the grind of football was worth it. That's when religion entered his life, and helped him put everything in perspective.

"I was born again a year ago," Parker said. "I accepted Christ, and when you do that, you really look at what you're doing and why you're doing it. I began to do that with football."

Parker saw in himself that he no longer

have to know what everybody else is doing anyway, so I had an idea. I didn't start completely blank," he said. "I like defensive end. At defensive end you have a lot more opportunity for the big play. You're more outside and more open."

On the offensive side of the football, Parker hardly finds himself in an open area at guard, a position he had never played before in his life.

"When I look back, I can't understand

like high school. It's very complex here."

Parker has also had the opportunity to work on a lot of different techniques in his time at Nebraska.

"As a tight end there was a lot of down-field blocking. Tackles are head-up a lot, so I got to work on that, and guards are always pulling. You've got to be thinking all the time," he said. "It's kind of like an art to me."

"It might not look that way on the

had the desire and hunger for the sport per se. He had fame and glory, but still felt empty. People with more desire and hunger to excell would soon be making the sport more difficult.

"I began to analyze whether I should continue in football because the desire was gone. If I don't have that motivation, there are problems, because the people out there are hungry," he said. "I really prayed about it this past spring, to see what God

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The answer was to play football, and be a witness for Jesus Christ.

"I saw how much good I could do in that position as a football player to glorify Him," Parker said. "I'd been looking too much to the day-to-day toil, and not at the overall picture of what I could accomplish by becoming a starter."

"I have a verse for my career from *Proverbs*: 'Without a vision, people perish.'"

"God began to give me a goal for the team; what he wanted me to do. If I were

"That gives me the desire to be in a position where kids can look up to me and say, 'he's a football player and he's a Christian. He loves God.' It's not me, it's Him. He's blessed me with this ability."

to get a starting position, it would be very important. That's held in high esteem on a team like Nebraska's. It would give me a great opportunity to talk about Him."

Parker has seen how young children pick out sports heroes, and how some of those heroes inevitably let them down by making mistakes in life. "That gives me the desire to be in a position where kids can look up to me and say, 'he's a football player, and he's a Christian. He loves God.' It's not me, it's His. He's blessed me with this ability."

Obviously, Parker didn't always feel that way. In fact, he quit going to church when he was a third-grader, and once sports entered his life, he thought that was all there was.

"When I got hurt as a freshman, I had a lot of time to just sit and think," Parker said. "I thought about things I'd done in the past, achievements I had made, and the fame, glory and popularity I had. It gave me nothing inside. I was missing something, and I thought it might be God."

"I made a move into a different apartment, and there were two people next door who were born again. That, to me, was God."

Parker also knows that his beliefs, and his religion, will not always be looked on kindly by others.

“That doesn’t bother me,” he said. “As Paul said, ‘who are you trying to please, man or God?’ Jesus said don’t be surprised if people hate you because they hated me first. It’s expected. I hold no bitterness against them. I do hold compassion for them, and I will pray for them.

"It's not what you say, it's how you say it. I speak in love and gentleness."

Coming from a 6-foot-4, 230 pounder, it's a message that's difficult to miss. That just puts a smile on his face.

"Sports have been good to me, and so has God. It's only natural to work together," he said.

Parker and Holloway will be working

together on the field to assure continued success for the Nebraska football program, and Bellevue athletes in particular.

Their Air Force background, so characteristic of Bellevue athletes over the years, hasn't hurt them a bit.

"As far as the Air Force is concerned, I haven't done that much moving around," Holloway said. "I was born in Puerto Rico, but basically, I grew up in two places, South Dakota and Nebraska. The whole situation does give you a broader outlook on life though."

"It helped me in regards to going to college," Parker said. "A lot of people grow up in one place before college, and always call nothing but that home. When I'm in school nine months, I call this home, and go to visit my parents. I really have two homes, here and Bellevue. I can't think of two better homes to have." ♦



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Ask Tom Osborne

If you have questions for Coach Tom Osborne, write to the *Huskers Illustrated*, Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. We reserve the right to select only those questions we feel appropriate.

With Nebraska beginning Big Eight Conference play against Oklahoma State, what do you think the Cornhuskers' chances are of winning a fourth consecutive conference title? What other teams will figure most prominently in the race? Is it an advantage to play your three toughest Big Eight opponents at home?

"You can put Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Nebraska and Missouri in almost any order. Any one of those four teams should have a fairly equal chance at winning the conference. Oklahoma State has a very good football team. Their experience at the skill positions is very good. Missouri is experienced. Oklahoma lost a lot of its defense. They're kind of the reverse of us. They've got experience on offense but not defense; we've got it on defense instead of offense.

"Interestingly enough, all three of those other teams return their top two quarterbacks, and we lost our top two quarterbacks. I think people are picking us to win the conference more because we won it in the past and because we have a good program rather than because we've got better players.

"I'd say people are really betting heavily on the program. I just hope those people know what they're talking about. We play Oklahoma State and Missouri in our first two conference games, so we're starting out with two of the top teams in the Big Eight, right off the bat.

"As for playing our three toughest conference opponents at home, it hasn't seemed to make much difference in the past. We've really played Missouri and Oklahoma almost as well down there as we have here, and as for Oklahoma State, we've had tough games with them at both places. We had a 7-3 game there, a 14-10 game here, a 28-20 game down there, and then a 14-10 game last year down there. We also tied 17-17 there once. In the conference, it really doesn't seem to make much difference where you play."

How do you feel about winning the national championship? Is it easier to win the national championship if you're rated high at the beginning of the season?

"Winning a national championship is nice to do, but it's not anything I lose any sleep about. To be honest, to me a national championship happens. I don't think it's anything you can plan for or anything you can very well say, 'This is what we're going to go out and do.' If we had a playoff system, we could control the situation by winning all of our games.

"But a national championship really hinges on the ballot box, to some degree, and your schedule. It's something that, hopefully, if you're good enough and consistent enough and hang in there long enough, it'll happen to you. I just don't know that it's always something you make

happen.

"If you had your choice, I think you'd rather be ranked fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth and then have the chance to come on at the end. Under the existing circumstances, it's probably a little harder to start out No. 1 and stay there all year. I'm not just saying that because of what happened to us last year. I think the history of the thing over the last few years has been, some very good teams haven't been able to withstand that physical pounding, game after game."

With Turner Gill, Mike Rozier, Irving Fryar and Mark Schellen all gone this season, has Nebraska's basic offense changed dramatically?

"We run the same plays. I guess what we call depends a little bit on what works, but it isn't like we've redesigned our offense. We haven't gone to a dropback game and we haven't eliminated the option. We still use that. We've got most everything in we had last year, but the play selection may change.

"If, for some reason, something isn't working well, we've got what you might call a quality control thing built into the games. We chart every play, make a record and keep it on film. Every 41-pitch is on a reel of film, and if we find out during a game that the 41-pitch isn't averaging six or seven yards like it has for the last eight years, we start looking. We get that reel of film out and look at it and try to determine what it is, whether we're doing something different, whether it's personnel or the defense.

"We'll do that with our whole offense, so that after three or four games, we have an idea of what's happening and decide if we have to adjust our play selection."

Sometimes student-athletes complain that they have to take meaningless classes to remain eligible. How do you see that problem?

"Coaches are caught in a bind because of the NCAA requirements regarding eligibility. Say a player comes up and goes into the summer, and he's passed 21 hours with a 1.7 average. The NCAA says he has to pass 24 hours with at least a 1.8 average. So he needs three hours of B. Then, do you put him in calculus or do you put him in a course that you think he can pass?

"A guy says, 'They wasted my time by making me take this course.' But, on the other hand, if he didn't waste his time by taking the course, he loses his scholarship, and he's out of school. He's on the street.

"It's kind of a question of which is the worse of two evils. So yes, there are times when a player takes a course that isn't aesthetically pleasing to him or other people, and it may not lead to his major. But you have to satisfy NCAA rules to keep him in school." ♦

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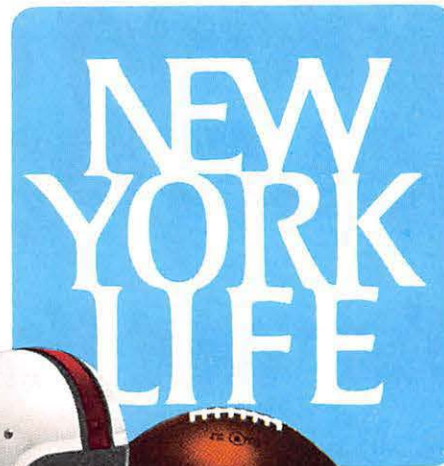
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